

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

MAY 2021

Dr. Henry D. Shannon



VISION STATEMENT

*Chaffey College:
Improving lives
through education.*

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A Message from Superintendent/ President Shannon

For many of you, summer will be a time to rest, recharge and enjoy a well-earned break. The last year has not been easy for us, and though we all powered through it, I understand why you may need a true summer break more this year than in years past. Please enjoy your time away, stay safe and I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

For the rest of us, summer will be a time to move ahead with our plans and goals. More than 8,800 students have enrolled in summer courses that will be offered mostly online. To them, I say "Thank you for spending your summer at Chaffey!" And to our dedicated faculty and staff - thank you for continuing to provide the support that our students need to reach their goals.

As we discussed in our virtual townhall meeting in April, our executive team meets weekly to discuss our plans for a safe return to campus. We will offer some hybrid courses in the summer and a combination of in-person, hybrid and online courses in the fall. Our staff members have been busy working to get the campus ready for our students and employees. We have also been busy with various Measure P construction projects, with work and planning underway for all three campuses, Fontana, Chino, Rancho Cucamonga, and the new Ontario campus.

We are excited for the better days that lie ahead.

Have a great summer, Panthers.

Sincerely,

Henry D. Shannon, Ph.D.

Nearly 2,800 Graduate from Chaffey College

Chaffey College celebrated the achievements of about 2,780 students in its first-ever virtual commencement ceremony on May 20.

The ceremony, broadcast online due to COVID-19 restrictions, included remarks from campus leaders including Superintendent/President Dr. Henry Shannon and Governing Board President Gary Ovitt.



"Obviously the circumstances and surroundings are different this year," Shannon said. "But the importance of this day remains the same."

Chaffey awarded nearly 5,500 degrees and certificates to students. Of the awards, 70 percent

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Chaffey Alumna Named CCCAA Scholar-Athlete



The California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) has named Savannah Ornelas '20 a member of the 2020 CCCAA Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll, the highest achievement awarded by the organization.

Chaffey athletics officials called Ornelas the embodiment of "Panther Pride" in that she excels both on the field and in the classroom, while working and helping her family.

"She's always there for her teammates," said Head Women's Soccer Coach Grace Cooper. "She's the prime example of an exceptional student-athlete and will excel at anything she sets her mind to."

Ornelas received numerous degrees from Chaffey College. In May 2020, she earned an associate in science in administration of justice for transfer and a Cal State University general education transfer degree. She received an associate in arts in kinesiology, with honors, in December.

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were associate's degrees and about 30 percent were certificates. The youngest members of the Class of 2021 are four 17-year-old students. The oldest graduate is 78 years old.

"You are a generation of Panthers who emerged from unimaginable odds and during a global pandemic," said Governing Board President Gary Ovitt. "You are extraordinary."

Chaffey College Student Government President Lauren Sanders thanked professors who helped her reach her goals of completing business and paralegal degrees.

"We are dealing with the new normal for the sake of our lives and the lives of our loved ones," she said. "My words of wisdom to you are 'Never give up!'"

Keynote speaker, Children's Fund CEO Dr. Ciriaco "Cid" Pinedo, described the importance of a degree or certificate, calling them more than just "pieces of paper." For him, he said a degree symbolizes the three to four jobs his immigrant parents had to work to give him a better life.

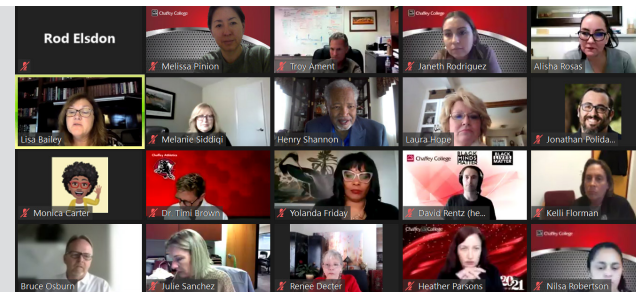
"That piece of paper reminds me that I am the embodiment of my parents' American dream,"

Pinedo said. "That piece of paper becomes the dreams of our ancestors."

The Class of 2021 includes 12 valedictorians. They are:

- Mark Maldonado of Rancho Cucamonga, university studies major
- Alec Lynch of Rancho Cucamonga, physics major
- Simran Bhatia of Rancho Cucamonga, psychology major
- Shiva Nia of Rancho Cucamonga, biology major
- Evelin Avila of Ontario, general education
- Nicole Herrera of Chino, sociology major
- Cheyenne Ureno of Rancho Cucamonga, psychology major
- Azalie Melchor of Fontana, photography major
- Joshua Garcia of Ontario, general education
- Clara Gaied of Rancho Cucamonga, general education
- Meera Joseph of Fontana, pathway to law school major
- Karmel Roe of San Bernardino, paralegal studies major

Campus Return, Measure P Covered at Townhall



About 100 faculty, students and staff members gathered to ask about the status of in-person classes, athletics, campus construction and other issues during the annual Chaffey College Townhall meeting, held virtually on April 21.

Members of the executive team fielded numerous questions that focused primarily on returning to normal operations on campus.

"We've been calling it a slow, sustained and phased-in approach," said Lisa Bailey, associate superintendent of business services and economic development.

Laura Hope, associate superintendent of instruction and institutional effectiveness, said that fall instruction will include about 270 course sections with a face-to-face component and that Chaffey will expand online capacity. Chaffey leaders are hopeful that spring 2022 instruction will resemble pre-pandemic conditions, she said.

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She has since transferred to Cal State San Bernardino.

Chaffey College Athletic Director Timi Brown praised Ornelas for her achievements with CCCAA and at Chaffey.

"This is a prestigious accomplishment," Brown said. "We are extremely proud of Savannah's dedication and commitment to the classroom."

The winners, along with the rest of the annual honor roll, are selected by the CCCAA Awards Committee from nominations made by community colleges throughout California.

Candidates for the Scholar Athlete Award must carry a minimum GPA of 3.5 and must also show outstanding leadership as an athlete, student, or in other college and community activities, as well as have participated in two seasons of sport at a California community college.

Ornelas was honored by the CCCAA in a virtual ceremony March 31.

Learn more about Savannah at <https://youtu.be/x0mrsqUYyZA>.

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Staff have been working to prepare the campus for reopening, installing hand sanitizer stations at building entrances as well as electrostatic disinfecting sprayers. They've also been addressing cleaning protocols for the campus.

Athletic Director Timi Brown updated the campus on the return of sports in June, saying that coaches have been keeping student-athletes engaged despite the lack of games and in-person training. The department is putting parameters in place for COVID-19 testing, and coaches have been encouraged to discuss the pros and cons of vaccinations with players.

Participants asked if the pandemic has affected plans related to Measure P construction projects. Melanie Siddiqi, associate superintendent of administrative services, said plans are moving forward despite COVID-19.

Chaffey has been working on a master plan for the new Fontana campus. College officials are purchasing 20 acres of land in Ontario to build a new campus.

"Fully developing those sites will be our focus," Siddiqi said.

Projects in the works also include a new instructional building in Chino, the library learning commons in Rancho Cucamonga and numerous renovation projects. One of those includes a 3.3-million-square-foot asphalt and pavement rehabilitation project that began in April and will continue through August.

"When everyone returns, this place will look like brand new," she said.



Ava Nguyen



Bonnie Khaw-Posthuma



Julie Song



Jin Liu

Asian American Professors Share Educational Journey

When Bonnie Khaw-Posthuma immigrated to the U.S. from Burma as a child, she found herself at a high school with a student population of all Asians and Pacific Islanders. She says that influenced the way counselors would speak to students.

"All I heard for four years was, 'You need to go into math, engineering or medical school,'" she said.

Khaw-Posthuma, an English professor at Chaffey College, was one of four panelists on the "Asian-American Voices Panel" on May 12. The event was one of several events held in celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Professor Jin Liu, who teaches Chinese at Chaffey, worked as an art teacher in Beijing and came to the U.S. when her husband had a job opportunity. She persevered through the death of her husband and continued her education while raising a young child.

"I didn't give up and kept learning to become who I am today," she said.

Sociology Professor Julie Song said she overcame struggles in high school and her early college years, turning a 1.9 GPA around after a counselor sat her down for a heart-to-heart talk.

Song realized that she needed to do well for herself.

"This is not for my parents. This is not because I'm Asian. This is just because I should do this for internal motivation," she said.

Communications Professor Ava Nguyen, a Vietnamese immigrant, became exposed to higher education as a child because her mother would bring her to class at Fullerton College.

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Serving the communities of:

Chino, Chino Hills, Fontana,
Montclair, Ontario,
Rancho Cucamonga, Upland

Mission Statement

Chaffey College inspires hope and success by improving lives and our community in a dynamic, supportive, and engaging environment of educational excellence where our diverse students learn and benefit from foundation, career, and transfer programs.

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After initially pursuing a career in broadcast media, she shifted her focus to ethnic studies and intercultural communication, which she says helped shed light on her own experiences as an Asian American.

"Grad school was probably the one moment in my life where I felt that education for me wasn't about surviving and keeping my family surviving. It was about thriving," Nguyen said.

Nursing Students Give COVID-19 Shots at San Antonio Hospital



More than 50 Chaffey College nursing students administered hundreds of COVID-19 vaccinations at San Antonio

Regional Medical Center in Upland between December and April.

The students, who gave the shots under supervision of faculty, participated as part of their their clinical experience. But it also gave them a chance to be on the front lines of something meaningful: eliminating a pandemic.

"It truly felt like holding hope in our hands," said Chaffey College Professor of Nursing Lisa Doget.

Marlene Cianchetti, a nursing instructor since 2005, agreed.

"The students and I absolutely loved being a part of the solution," she said.

Nearly 13 million Californians had been fully vaccinated by early May, about 42 percent of the population.

The pandemic caused a surge in demand for healthcare workers, with nursing students getting drafted to join frontline workers and nurses coming out of retirement to assist. It's something that alumna Tatiana Jaimes experienced firsthand. She completed her associate degree in nursing on Dec. 18, administered shots at San Antonio on Dec. 19 and got hired by Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Ontario to work in a COVID-19 unit right in the middle of the second surge.

"There were moments in my mind where I thought this was a hard time to become a nurse," Jaimes said. "I've seen so much sadness in the last four months. There hasn't been much reflection, but what I have considered is not so much how I helped but that it has been insane."

Jaimes said that administering shots when they first became available felt like being a part of history. She gave shots to San Antonio healthcare workers who she'd grown to care for by working alongside them.

"I feel very strongly that Chaffey's nursing program really prepared me for real nursing," she said.



Save The Date

June 9

Artist Talk with Nicole Rademacher

June 17

Juneteenth Celebration

June 21 - Summer Reading Program -
"Between the World and Me"

June 22 - Summer Reading Program -
"The Undocumented Americans"

June 23

Artist Talk with Isabel Avila