

# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2022

**Dr. Henry D. Shannon**



## VISION STATEMENT

*Chaffey College:  
Improving lives  
through education.*

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## A Message from Superintendent/ President Shannon

Dear Campus Community,

I am filled with excitement and optimism as we approach the spring season and welcome back many of our students to our campuses for face-to-face instruction. Thank you to each and every one of our faculty and staff for being nimble and accommodating as we weathered the recent COVID-19 surge while continuing to serve our students and our community.

In February, we were reminded of what it means to be part of a strong and unified community when Chaffey received \$1.7 million from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians for our hospitality management and culinary arts programs. Thanks to this generous gift and partnership, we plan to update the kitchen to create a career pipeline, establish more paid internships and offer more than 30 scholarships for students. Our gratitude to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is immense and I look forward to providing these new opportunities to our students.

Also in February, the Center for Culture and Social Justice (CCSJ) helped us celebrate Black History Month with a series of engaging and meaningful conversations, lectures, stories and expressions of art. Thank you to the CCSJ for continuing to shed a spotlight on the diverse cultures that educate and enrich our society.

Now as we move ahead, I look forward to recognizing and celebrating the contributions of influential women who have shaped our history during Women's History Month. Please mark your calendars for more upcoming engaging events hosted by the [CCSJ](#).

We have much to be grateful for at Chaffey and a lot to look forward to. As many of our students (and faculty) rejoin the campus for the first time this week, let us give them a warm welcome and embrace this exciting moment.

Sincerely,



Henry D. Shannon, Ph.D.



## Chaffey Foundation Receives \$1.7 Million From San Manuel

More students will have access to hospitality management and culinary arts training and careers with the support of a three-year \$1.7 million grant from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

Chaffey College plans to create a career pipeline through the partnership with San Manuel, offering at least six paid internships per semester, doubling the number of students able to enroll in the programs and adding faculty and staff positions.

Chaffey and San Manuel representatives gathered on February 16 for a check presentation at the Chino campus, followed by a tour of the campus' culinary lab.

More than 30 culinary and hospitality students will be able to apply for scholarships covering multiple semesters, becoming "San Manuel Scholars" through Chaffey's "Fund a Dream" program.

"We are excited to embark on this partnership with the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians because the demand for skilled workers in hospitality management and culinary arts in our region is expected to grow significantly in the coming years," said Chaffey College Superintendent/President Henry Shannon. "We are grateful to San Manuel for giving us the resources to help meet this demand."

The funding will allow Chaffey to provide students with state-of-the-art, industry-standard kitchen equipment, as well as a food truck. It will also help pay for uniforms and knife kits for culinary students.

## Black Empowerment Panel Discusses Human Rights

Education and healthcare leaders discussed the effects of COVID-19 on the Black community, the importance of education and the need for unity during a virtual panel discussion on February 4.

The event called "Black Empowerment Panel: A Discussion on Human Rights Advocacy," was one of numerous events held in February in celebration of Black History Month at Chaffey College.

Morgan State University Professor Dr. Jared Ball; Dr. Barbara Justice, forensic and clinical psychiatrist as well as a surgical oncologist; and political advocate Samaria Rice, the mother of police shooting victim Tamir Rice, gathered to discuss various topics affecting the Black community.

"We need to organize at a grassroots level in order to come together and make decisions about what is best for our people," Justice said.

Ball said the pandemic has not only hit the Black community hard in terms of illness and death, but it has also had a negative impact on Black businesses and mental health among young people.

"COVID continues to do immeasurable damage particularly to Black communities," he said.

Justice cited numerous risk factors such as diabetes and obesity exacerbating the rate at which Black people are suffering and dying from the virus. "A key will be in educating the community not only on the efficacy of the vaccine, but also in making better choices for overall health," she said.

The group also addressed Black support by political parties, saying that reform is in order.

"Again and again, we're put on the back burner while a lot of attention is paid to other groups that are more powerful, and they have the monetary resources and the political power to compel the Democratic party to act on their behalf," said Professor Dr. Omar Dphrepaulezz, who served as a moderator.

Rice, who has unsuccessfully fought for the prosecution of the officers who killed her son, referred to the political system as being "broken from the inside."

"As Black people in this country, we're not getting justice for police murders," she said.

## Connect with Us on Social Media



## Chaffey College Governing Board



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## Serving the communities of:

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

## Mission Statement

Chaffey College improves lives and our communities through education with a steadfast commitment to equity and innovation to empower our diverse students who learn and thrive through excellent career, transfer, and workforce education programs that advance economic and social mobility for all.

# Chaffey Celebrates Life of Dr. Donna Colondres

More than 300 students, colleagues, and family members gathered to remember longtime Chaffey College counselor and Umoja co-founder Dr. Donna Colondres during [a virtual celebration of her life](#) on February 1.

The event included stories and tributes, a “pouring of libations” ceremony, and even some tap dancing from former Umoja President Tony Merriwether.

“We love you. You will forever be remembered. Your mark is incalculable,” Merriwether said.

Colondres, who worked as a counselor and professor at Chaffey for 31 years, passed away in her sleep in late January. She helped pioneer Chaffey’s Umoja program, which supports Black students with specialized counseling, cultural activities, and leadership opportunities. Chaffey College Superintendent/President Henry Shannon, who often referred to her as “Doctor Donna,” credits Colondres with guiding thousands of students throughout her career.

“She worked tirelessly to help whoever needed assistance,” Shannon said. “Being a mentor, she was always a great listener and someone who always gave of herself for the betterment of Chaffey College.”

Numerous members of Colondres’ family spoke in her honor, including her son, Cesar.

“We will go on and live her legacy of being strong and persevering through everything we



need to,” he said. “I thank you all and love you all for being here.”

Bridgette Warren spoke of the pride she felt of being Colondres’ sister.

“Donna was my sister, my teacher, sometimes my mother, and with all of that, she is just remembered and loved and was so full of warmth,” she said.

When alumnus Brandon Washington ’20 first met Colondres in his freshman year at Chaffey College in 2017, he remembers the counselor spending some time with him on his education plan. But the majority of time they talked about their families and images of the Caribbean on her office walls. Washington later transferred from Chaffey to UCLA.

“I just feel like she’s a prime example and a model of what counselors, professors, and staff members of institutions of higher learning should strive to be like,” he said. “She cared so much about her students, herself, her family, and her work.”



**March 2-4**  
[A2MEND Summit](#)

**March 3**  
[Border Butterfly Project](#)

**March 10**  
[Langston Hughes: Relevant Yesterday,  
Even More Relevant Today](#)

**March 24**  
[Trans & Nonbinary 101](#)

**March 2, 9, 23, 30**  
[College Wrap presents “Grief Series”](#)

**March 28**  
[Hidden Histories: Women’s Rights](#)

**March 31**  
[Trans Day of Visibility](#)