

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

MAY 2023

Dr. Henry D. Shannon



VISION STATEMENT
Chaffey College:
Improving lives
through education.

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A Message from Superintendent/ President Shannon

Dear Chaffey College and Community Members,

There is one thing that I believe holds true for those who work in education and that is the collective sense of pride and excitement felt at the end of the school year. With good, hard work comes great reward. This was evident at our 106th commencement ceremony at the Toyota Arena on May 18.

Nearly 10,000 people filled the arena to watch our Panthers become college graduates. We were moved and inspired by the words for Dr. Theresa Price who served as our keynote speaker. Her message of perseverance, equality and achievement was both poignant and timely for our diverse audience of graduates, educators and loved ones.

As always, commencement is the result of the collective work of our dedicated staff and faculty, and for that I say THANK YOU. Your commitment to our students is what makes Chaffey College so special.

While our campuses may be slightly quieter for a brief moment, I look forward to the start of Summer Term when classes begin June 5. We are expecting over 1,000 more students than last summer – an encouraging indication of progress as we work to improve our enrollment.

It has been an extraordinary academic year with a strong start and finish. This e-newsletter is only a snapshot of our points of pride for May but know that there are countless reasons to celebrate so many in our community.

As we enter summer, I hope you will make time to recharge and enjoy time with loved ones. There is much to look forward to in the near future at Chaffey College.

Sincerely,

Henry D. Shannon, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President

Alisha Rosas Serves as Keynote Speaker for Ontario-Montclair Conference

Associate Superintendent of Student Services and Strategic Communications Alisha Rosas served as keynote speaker for the Ontario-Montclair School District's Annual Parent Leadership Conference in May, sharing her story of success with 500 attendees.

Rosas spoke about her journey from humble beginnings as the daughter of a single mother, to helping lead a college that serves about 16,000 students per year.

"Wherever you are in your life's journey as individuals, as parents - I can tell you with a promise that education can change your life for the better," Rosas said. "Whether you want to get your GED, a certificate or degree - whatever it is, education is the most effective way to expand the options and opportunities of your life."

The district's conference includes a series of workshops to help parents support the success of their children in school. Topics such as financial awareness, college readiness and social-emotional well-being have been covered in past conferences.

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More Than 2,500 Students Graduate From Chaffey

Nearly 10,000 people including graduates, family members and friends filled Toyota Arena in Ontario on Thursday for the 2023 Chaffey College Commencement ceremony, marking the completion of academic programs for 2,500 students.

Chaffey College's class of 2023 earned about 4,000 degrees and certificates. The class includes 17 valedictorians and 15 high school students graduating from Chaffey College through the [dual enrollment](#) program.

"When you graduate from Chaffey College, you carry with you a legacy of excellence that is recognized throughout the Inland Empire, throughout California and throughout the nation," said Chaffey College Superintendent/President Henry D. Shannon. "Take pride in being a part of that legacy."

Dr. Theresa Price, founder and CEO of the [National College Resources Foundation](#) and the Black College Expo, served as keynote speaker for the event. She spoke of the challenges of growing up in Compton, surviving cancer and finding her purpose in serving others. She urged graduates to ask themselves how they want to be remembered when they're gone.

"You are creating your legacy. You are writing your history right now," Price said. "What are the history books going to say about you?"

The class of 2023's cumulative GPA was 3.21, a slight increase from 2022. The oldest graduate is 73-year-old, while the youngest is 15.

Chaffey's student speaker Eunice Guerrero, a hospitality management major from Chino, shared her story about dropping out of college at 18-years-old and returning 21 years later to pursue her dream of running a corporate event company.

"My parents may not have been able to teach me about books and colleges. But they did teach something books never could. They taught me to have pride and a strong work ethic," she said.

Guerrero is transferring to Cal Poly Pomona to pursue a bachelor's degree in hospitality management.



Oldest Chaffey Student a Champion of Lifelong Learning



The year that Robert Gordon took his first college class, John F. Kennedy became president, NASA launched the first American into space and a box of Cheerios was a quarter.

Gordon, 85, has been retired from his career as a social worker for more than 13 years, but still goes to college.

In fact, he's currently the oldest student enrolled at Chaffey College.

"I'm an educational cross trainer," he said. "If I keep my brain going, it will keep my body going and I'll live longer."

[A Pew research study](#) shows that 73 percent of Americans consider themselves lifelong learners, engaging in activities from reading and attending conferences, to taking courses related to personal interests and hobbies. Most said they were motivated to make their lives more interesting and fuller. The American Association of Retired Persons said [54 percent](#) of senior citizens pursue lifelong learning to stay sharp or promote brain health.

Gordon began taking college courses to strengthen his social worker career, earning an associate's degree from Washtenaw County Community College in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1975, as well as a bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Michigan in 1979 and 1981, respectively.

He worked for the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services for 26 years, serving 16 years as a supervisor.

Gordon also worked for many years as a sub-contractor and a truck driver. In his spare time, he took fitness courses such as weight lifting, yoga and swimming at area community colleges.

He moved to Rancho Cucamonga in 2015, and enrolled at Chaffey College.

He has earned numerous awards, including three associate's degrees from Chaffey in history, geography and philosophy.

Professor of Philosophy Ryan Falcioni called Gordon one of the most intellectually curious and engaged students he has encountered during his 23-year career at Chaffey College. Students in an ethics seminar he taught often waited to hear what Gordon had to say before going into a discussion.

"They greatly appreciated his perspective and real-life experiences on many of the social and political topics up for discussion," Falcioni said.

Governing Board Member Elected to California Community College Trustees Board



Chaffey College Governing Board Clerk Deana Olivares-Lambert has been elected to the [California Community College Trustees board](#), an organization that helps advance the mission of community colleges across the state.

Olivares-Lambert, who has served the [Governing Board](#) since 2020, was one of nine members and five officers elected on May 6 in Monterey. She will be sworn in during a virtual ceremony on June 16.

"I'm really excited to represent Chaffey and make sure our students and our community have as many resources and support as possible," she said. "It's an honor to work with this group because they've been doing important work for their communities and the state."

Olivares-Lambert has served on the board's diversity, equity, inclusion and access committee since January. The board has been examining best practices for supporting college CEOs, superintendents and presidents.

Chaffey College Governing Board President Lee C. McDougal nominated Olivares-Lambert for the trustees' position.

"Community colleges will continue to play a critical role in our state's economic recovery in the coming years, and it's important that Chaffey College has a seat at the table for important decisions affecting our students," McDougal said. "Deana's dedication to Chaffey's mission and her vast leadership experience make her the perfect candidate for this role."

In her new position, Olivares-Lambert plans to help with removing barriers to student success. The board has numerous issues it plans to address in the next year including college completion and transfer rates, baccalaureate programs for community colleges as well as support services.

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Chaffey College Governing Board



Lee C. McDougal
President



Kathleen Brugger
Vice President



Deana Olivares-Lambert
Clerk



Gloria Negrete-McLeod
Member



Gary C. Ovitt
Immediate Past
President



Rousselle Douge
Student Trustee/
CCSG President

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.

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Rosas, an alumna of the district, was named a 2017 "Model of Excellence" by Ontario-Montclair Unified for her advocacy of education.

She urged parents to remember the people who supported their life goals, and reminded

them that they now have that role in the lives of their own children.

"You are the foundations that help them decide whether or not they will believe in themselves," she said.

Chaffey Student Selected for Immigration Research Program



affecting US-Mexico border communities.

Mario Varo was one of only 10 applicants accepted nationwide out of a pool of 600 college students for the ["Research Experience for Undergraduates Collaborative Site Program on Immigration Police and US-Mexico Border Communities."](#) The program is hosted by New Mexico State University.

Varo said most of the applicants come from prominent four-year universities, so being accepted caught him by surprise.

"Naturally I feel ecstatic, but more than anything, I'm shocked," he said.

Varo hopes to one day become a political science teacher.

Students selected for the internship receive training and inspiration to pursue careers in policy research - focusing on immigration,

The National Science Foundation accepted a Chaffey College political science major into a competitive summer internship program that aims to improve immigration policies

asylum and border issues. These are topics Varo holds dear because his parents immigrated from Oaxaca, Mexico in the 1990s.

"A change I would like to see is a genuine shift in policy that provides a faster pathway to citizenship for immigrants," Varo said. "Local, state and federal policies need to be shifted in order to provide legitimate resources to help out immigrants from Latin America, and not play into fear-mongering rhetoric."

Varo plans to use the internship as an opportunity to strengthen his research skills, and gain access to other research opportunities.

"Having as much exposure to research will not only help for graduate school admissions, but it will help me grow my network," he said.

Assistant Professor of History Luis Fernández said Varo deserved to be selected because of his passion for political science. Varo has taken several of Fernandez's classes including "The Chicano Minority in the United States."

"His intellectual investment in various academic issues involving political science such as immigration demonstrates to me that he has a profound commitment to social justice and the intellectual mission of political science," he said.



Save The Date

June 3 [Student Expo artist reception](#)
Wignall Museum

June 5-22 [Student Expo 2023 - Wignall Museum](#)

June 8 [Pride Celebration](#)
Rancho Cucamonga Campus Quad

June 15 [Juneteenth Celebration](#)
Rancho Cucamonga Campus Quad