

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2020

Dr. Henry D. Shannon



VISION STATEMENT

*Chaffey College:
Improving lives
through education.*

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A Message from Superintendent/ President Shannon

I have no doubt that most of us have experienced a wide range of emotions in the weeks leading up to and following the 2020 presidential election. I thank you for hanging in there and participating in our democratic process.

We may not have all agreed on the right person to lead the nation when we cast our votes, but I think we can agree on one thing: we are here at Chaffey College to change lives. We are here to build better futures. And that is something that transcends political parties and affiliations.

We are headed into an uncertain and challenging future that includes a \$54.3 billion state budget deficit. Our state community college system has submitted a "plan for an equitable recovery" to fight for continued and added support of community colleges.

I strongly encourage you to connect with your state lawmakers and ask them to:

- Protect the state's 2.1 million community college students from budget cuts
- Invest in the diversification of faculty and staff, which will help all of our students succeed
- Help community colleges address the "digital divide" by investing in infrastructure for broadband connectivity and by expanding online support
- Expand mental health services for our students through Proposition 63 funds
- Provide flexible block grants to address costs associated with COVID-19

Thank you for supporting Chaffey College and its students.

Sincerely,

Henry D. Shannon, Ph.D.



Chaffey to Hold First Drive-In Commencement

Nearly 200 students will participate in Chaffey College's first "drive-in" commencement on December 4.

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Campus Seeks Closure in Post-Election Talks



Chaffey students, faculty and staff gathered to discuss post-election mindset during a pair of talks called "Election 2020 – Moving Forward."

The campaign for the presidency contributed added stress to a country already facing the challenges of COVID-19 and civil rights issues. But even a week after the election, the closure people had been seeking still hadn't come.

"As long as they're still counting ballots and questioning, I don't think we'll be able to move forward as a country to make it better," said Chaffey Counselor Fabiola Espitia.

Dean of Student Life Amy Nevarez agreed that people a week later were still feeling unease but there was also an energy of hopefulness. Creating spaces for people to process the outcome is a great start, she said. And supporting students regardless of political affiliation is critical.

"We need to convey to our students that beginning and completing your education is a part of our democracy," Nevarez said. "We want to make sure our community is civically engaged."

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Students, faculty, administrators and the Governing Board will be in full regalia for the historic event, which will take place at Chaffey's Rancho Cucamonga campus stadium parking lot. At least 190 students have signed up to participate, and to ensure social distancing, they will be distributed between two ceremonies taking place at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Chaffey's annual commencement normally takes place at Toyota Arena in Ontario, but that ceremony was postponed due to COVID-19.

"We look forward to seeing thousands of proud family members and graduates every year at Toyota Arena for commencement, but the pandemic had other plans for us this year," said Chaffey College Superintendent/President Dr. Henry Shannon. "While county and state health regulations dictate that we cannot gather in such large numbers, we recognize the importance of this moment in our students' lives, so we want to honor them as best we can with an official ceremony."

Speakers will include Shannon, student class speakers, Chaffey College Faculty Senate President Nicole DeRose and Children's Fund President and CEO Dr. Ciriaco "Cid" Pinedo, serving as keynote speaker. Students will be invited to step out and stand next to their cars as names of graduates are called.

To comply with San Bernardino County health guidelines, graduates and all guests will be required to wear masks while on campus.

Stories, Cultural Parallels Shared in Dia de los Muertos Celebration



When Sonia Torres talks to students about the holiday Dia de los Muertos, she hopes they can remember a simple takeaway.

"It's not a scary holiday. It's not Spanish Halloween. And it's not a sad day," she said.

That's what the Chaffey alumna, who works as an educational services generalist, shared during the college's first virtual Dia de los Muertos celebration on Nov. 2.

Torres talked about the history of the two-day holiday and its cultural importance.

The event was part of Chaffey College's weeklong celebration of Dia de los Muertos. The campus community also gathered for an artist showcase featuring the work of Chaffey alumna Gloria Toti Bell and a flower-making class led by Stephanie Serrano.

Families celebrate Dia de los Muertos to recognize death as a natural part of the human experience, Torres said. It includes the assembly of an altar – a showcase of family

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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.

Stories, Cultural Parallels Shared in Dia de los Muertos Celebration - continued from page 2

photos, marigolds, food and candles, among other elements.

For Leticia Romo, director of student equity and engagement, Dia de los Muertos gatherings with her family also include music.

"We play the favorite song of every family member who has passed away," she said. "We all sing along and talk about the memories that we have."

Dr. Donna Colondres, counselor and Umoja coordinator, who collaborated with Torres on the event, drew parallels between Dia de los Muertos and African celebrations such as Kwanzaa.

Colondres said Kwanzaa celebrations also include an altar with many of the same elements – lit candles and food. Water is also represented through a "pouring of the libations" ceremony, with water representing purity and cleanliness.

"It's simply a welcoming and evoking of the spirits of our elders, our ancestors – those who have gone before us, whose shoulders we stand on," she said.

Torres and Colondres plan to collaborate on future cultural events.

"We need to keep this conversation going about how alike we are," she said.

Campus Seeks Closure in Post-Election Talks - continued from page 2

Chaffey College Student Government President/Student Trustee Lauren Sanders agreed that added support is needed for students in the wake of the election, particularly for students already facing various adversities.

"We have to keep students motivated, especially now," Sanders said.



Save The Date

December 1

Dulce Soledad Ibarra
artist talk

December 2

I am Chaffey talk with
Maria Fitzpatrick

December 4 and 11

Surviving Finals Discussion

December 9

LGBTQ+ Survival Guide
for the Holidays

December 10

Know Your Rights Workshop

December 14

Cindy Rehm artist talk