

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

APRIL 2021

Dr. Henry D. Shannon



VISION STATEMENT

*Chaffey College:
Improving lives
through education.*

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A Message from Superintendent/ President Shannon

As the academic year comes to a close and we turn our attention to summer, I wanted to take some time to thank everyone for continuing to push through the challenges we have been facing. While the light at the end of the tunnel grows brighter each day, it has taken a lot of energy and determination to get us this far. Thank you for not giving up on our students.

We are headed into commencement season and while it looks different than normal, I think we all remain excited to see our graduates finish their academic programs and move on to the next chapter of their lives.

Here are some preliminary figures about the Class of 2021.

- Graduates will be receiving around 5,500 degrees and certificates.
- There will be around 2,800 graduates earning one or more awards.
- The youngest graduates are 17-years-old (we have four of them).
- The oldest graduate is 78-years-old.
- Our graduates are roughly 64 percent female and 35 percent male.

I wish all of you continued health and strength as we close out what has been a year of amazing accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Henry D. Shannon, Ph.D.

Grad Fest Drive- Thru Draws More than 300

The sound of car horns, dance music and cheers filled the air as Chaffey College celebrated its annual "Grad Fest" event in drive-thru format April 14.

Faculty and staff wearing graduation regalia waved pom poms and danced as graduates – some with cars decorated with balloons and



painted messages – drove through to pick up their caps, gowns and other graduation items. "I really liked it since we're not having (in-person) graduation," said Tiffany Harden,

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Chaffey Alumna Beverly Cleary Dies at 104



Beverly Cleary, who attended Chaffey College in the 1930s and later wrote children's books that inspired generations of readers, passed away on March 25 in Carmel-by-the-Sea. She was just 18 days shy of her 105th birthday.

Cleary, born Beverly Bunn in 1916, attended Chaffey from fall 1934 through spring 1936. She graduated with an associate of arts degree in English on June 5, 1936.

Cleary sold more than 91 million books worldwide during her lifetime. Originally from McMinnville, Ore., Beverly's love of reading was nurtured by her mother from a young age, according to her publisher, Harper Collins.

When the family moved to Portland, Cleary was placed in the school's low reading circle, which served as her inspiration to write for children struggling with reading. She came to Chaffey to become a children's librarian, but soon discovered her passion was in writing for children rather than reading to them.

Cleary created beloved characters such as Henry Huggins and Ramona

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a nursing major. "It was cool, especially for the kids. My kids loved it."

Harden said the support she has received from EOPS and CalWorks has helped her succeed. And despite the challenge of taking classes during COVID-19, she said that giving up was not an option.

"To me it's an investment," Harden said. "It's an opportunity to get to where I need to go and it allows me to support my kids."

Student Ayleen Luna said she was also grateful that Chaffey College held the event.

"It means the world to me," said student Ayleen Luna. "I've been waiting for this for



what seems like forever and I'm just so happy that Chaffey College is able to do this. It just makes the students feel so special, so I'm really happy being here."

Chaffey College will hold a virtual commencement ceremony on May 20.

Chaffey Alum Named Guardian Scholars Award Recipient at CSUF



Anthony Muñoz came to Chaffey College in 2016 to pursue a degree in psychology. But for a while, he didn't feel like he belonged.

"I would go to class and just come home," he said.

All of that changed when he connected with Extended Opportunities Program and Services counselors, who helped him see Chaffey as a second home and showed him his purpose.

Muñoz now hopes to follow a similar path to the counselors who helped him succeed.

Muñoz, a 2019 Chaffey graduate and a human services major at Cal State Fullerton, earned a full-ride scholarship through the school's Guardian Scholars program in March. It's a highly competitive scholarship that

he says will help him pursue a career either as a social worker, a school counselor or a probation officer.

The Santa Fe Springs native is a former foster youth who was raised by an uncle since he was a baby. Even though Muñoz did not live in a foster home with strangers, Muñoz says the feelings of abandonment he experienced were just as difficult. Both of his parents suffer from substance abuse issues and his father has been associated with gangs, he said.

"I made up my mind that their decisions were not going to affect my future," he said.

After graduating from Chaffey College, Muñoz transferred to Cal State Fullerton and joined the Guardian Scholars program, which provides support for former foster youths. He lives on campus and currently takes online classes due to the pandemic.

He hopes to keep going after earning his bachelor's degree in 2022, eventually earning a doctorate.

Perseverance is especially important to the first-generation student. After all, he has six

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Quimby in the more than 30 books she authored. Her books received multiple prestigious awards, including the 1984 John Newbery Medal.

Cleary was also the 2003 recipient of the National Medal of Art from the National Endowment of the Arts, and named a Living Legend by the Library of Congress.

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siblings, two who will soon be graduating high school.

"I want to show them that we have the opportunity to break the cycle of all the drama in our family," he said.

EOPS Counselor Susanna Galvez said Muñoz has not only served as a role model to his

own siblings but to other EOPS and NextUp students as well.

"He never quits and keeps moving forward," Galvez said. "I know that Anthony, like many of our former foster youth, takes a deep breath every morning and pushes himself to try regardless of what he has faced."

Foundation Receives \$1.3 Million Grant for InTech



The James Irvine Foundation awarded the Chaffey College Foundation a \$1.3-million grant in late March to support internships, pre-apprenticeships and training at the Industrial Technical Learning Center in Fontana. It is Chaffey's second \$1.3-million grant awarded by the foundation in the last two years.

The grant will provide accelerated training programs and paid internships in advanced manufacturing for low-income Inland Empire residents.

Chaffey College Superintendent/President Dr. Henry Shannon said InTech has seen a 12 percent increase in enrollment due to COVID-19. The grant will help the center meet that increased need, and the needs of industry in the region.

"Students are coming to InTech in search of pandemic-proof careers," Shannon said. "And thanks to The James Irvine Foundation, we will be able to serve them and help transform their lives."

Sandra Sisco, director of Chaffey College economic development and the InTech Center, said the grant will help InTech rebuild the region's economy by providing skilled employees for the workforce.

"We are still dealing with the challenges of the pandemic, but as the region begins to emerge, InTech will play a vital role in helping us bounce back and close the skills gap by providing training designed by industry to meet their employment needs," Sisco said.

The grant will help InTech offer accelerated entry-level training programs in a variety of manufacturing jobs, including welding, industrial maintenance, mechatronics and cybersecurity. Students who successfully complete one of these programs will then be eligible to be placed at a company for a 240-hour paid internship at \$18 an hour.

"We are grateful for our partnership with The James Irvine Foundation's Better Careers initiative because it aligns with our vision of transforming lives through education," said Foundation Executive Director Lisa Nashua.

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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.

Chaffey Introduces Equity and Diversity Initiative

Chaffey College has rolled out a "10-Point Plan" developed by its executive team to improve equity and diversity in hiring, training, curriculum and campus climate.

The move comes in response to national declines in community college enrollment among students of color since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing social unrest throughout the country and the effects of both at Chaffey College.

"We already consider Chaffey College a place that is welcoming for all students and employees," said Chaffey College Superintendent/President Henry Shannon. "But we want to do more, particularly given the challenges that have arisen in the last year."

The initiatives include:

- Hiring an expert to assess equity practices in employee recruitment, hiring, orientation and retention.
- Provide increased support with transfer requirements for economically-disadvantaged and students of color.
- Decolonization and diversification of curriculum. Providing low and no-cost options for course materials to minimize cost barriers for students.
- Hire consultants to conduct a campus climate survey and improve the educational experience for male Black and Latino students.
- Retain a mental health professional to work with Chaffey College Campus Police on non-criminal incidents.
- Virtual town hall discussions once per semester to provide updates on initiatives.

The initiatives are included in Chaffey's "Strategic Plan on Equity," which will be expanded and updated as needs arise.



Save The Date

May 5
Artist Talk with Amy Sarkisian

May 10
Artist Talk with Jaime Munoz

May 12
Asian-American Voices

May 13
From Allies to Accomplices

May 14
Design Talk with Thomas Hamdani

May 14
Career Pathways to Power