

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

MARCH 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,

Spring is officially upon us at Chaffey College and our campuses are filled with a renewed sense of energy and positivity. All four of our spring term sessions are in full swing and more of our students and faculty are back on campus engaging in hands-on, face-to-face learning. While this may seem minor, let us remember where we were two years ago this month and reflect on how far we have come.

We are moving ahead at Chaffey and steadily making plans for more in-person events, such as our 105th Commencement Ceremony, which is scheduled to take place at the Toyota Arena on May 19. As many other college and university officials can agree, being able to hold an in-person commencement ceremony is a big deal. I look forward to celebrating our students with their friends and families on this day.

This month we had much to celebrate at Chaffey. Our InTech Center received a \$500,000 grant for the mechatronics program, which will help provide students with more opportunities to pursue training in the mechanics, electronics, automation and robotics fields.

Additionally, our strategic communications team earned 12 national awards at the 37th Annual Educational Advertising Awards—the nation's largest and most respected educational advertising awards competition in the country. Bravo!

I am always excited to learn about the many ways our Chaffey community is making a difference—whether through merit, scholarship or any accomplishment. And as the spring term presses forward, I know there will be many more opportunities and reasons to celebrate.

Happy spring, Panthers!

Sincerely,



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

InTech Awarded \$500,000 for Mechatronics Program



The California Apprenticeship Initiative has awarded the Chaffey College Industrial Technical Learning Center a \$500,000 grant to train students to become mechatronics technicians.

The grant will support Chaffey's "Automation, Robotics and Mechatronics (ARM) Pre-Apprenticeship Program." Students will receive training in mechanics, electronics, automation and robotics, with the first class beginning in late May or early June.

"We are very proud of our track record in training students for in-demand jobs in the Inland Empire. The ARM Pre-Apprenticeship is another example of how we collaborate with employers to develop a high-performance workforce that helps build a strong regional economy," said Sandra Sisco, director of economic development and the InTech Center.

The median wage for mechatronics technicians is about \$28.75 an hour or \$59,800 annually.

InTech collaborated with the Inland Desert Employers Apprenticeship (IDEA) Committee to create the program.

The program will help students:

- attain entry-level mechatronics technician jobs
- continue their training by entering the registered mechatronics apprenticeship program that provides graduates with both state and federal journey-level certification
- apply to the mechatronics associate's degree program
- enhance their skills if they're currently employed in manufacturing, distribution and other industries that utilized advanced industrial technologies.

The InTech Center will use funding to develop curriculum for the program. The program will then be reviewed by the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) for registration approval at the state level. Funds will support training for 100 pre-apprenticeship students, foster connections with employers so students can be hired, marketing of the program, industry-recognized certifications and the strengthening of industry partnerships.



Hip Hop Summit Speaker Addresses Black Activism and Literacy

When Dr. Elaine Richardson played a Nicki Minaj video for a group of Black middle school girls in 2012, some of the students praised Minaj as an artist. But others had a critical response, calling her "ugly and nasty."

Richardson—who served as keynote speaker for Chaffey College's Third Annual Hip Hop Summit in late February—shared the story to illustrate the parallels between how Black women and girls are perceived by society, and how they perceive each other.

"We've internalized who's beautiful, who's worth more, whose body is desired, who is disposable," said Richardson, a professor and researcher of literacy education among Black people. "All of those things are put upon us."

The talk was one of a series of events held during the Hip Hop Summit, which culminated in a hip hop showcase featuring community artists.

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Chaffey College Dean's Family Full of Black History Firsts

Chaffey College Dean Dr. Michael McClellan comes from a long line of Black history trailblazers at the college, with relatives including the first Black athletic coach, a co-founder of the Black Student Union and a student government vice president.

In all, McClellan has more than 15 relatives who have attended the college since the 1960s—and six were prominent leaders on campus.

"I think it's very humbling," McClellan said. "I'm very proud of the family legacy we have here. It just really shows the significance and impact Chaffey College has had on three generations of my family. Chaffey really embraces folks who wouldn't otherwise have other opportunities to advance in life."

McClellan's grandparents came to California from Texas in 1957 in search of better opportunities. Their children and grandchildren who are Chaffey alumni include:

- **Theophilus "T.C." McClellan** – All-American football and track star; named "Man of the Month"
- **Harold Lynn McClellan** – first Black athletics coach and first Black football team captain
- **Shirley McClellan** – co-founder of the Chaffey Black Student Union; served on the hiring committee that brought Chaffey's first black professor to campus; helped develop the "Actuation Center"—a predecessor of the CCSJ where students of all backgrounds could gather
- **Robert Leonard Spratt** – Associated Student Body vice president and "Bachelor of the Year"
- **Linda Spratt** – served on the dance color guard team

- **Sylvester McClellan** – played Chaffey basketball and was accepted to Claremont Men's College

McClellan, a Fontana High School graduate and four-sport athlete with six educational degrees and more than 20 years' experience in higher education, has also brought a number of "firsts" to Chaffey. Since his tenure began at Chaffey in 2018, he helped launch the college's academic and career communities, as well as Chaffey's program maps—two key initiatives developed to help students navigate their college paths. He serves as dean for counseling, instructional support, and kinesiology, nutrition and athletics departments.

He requested an archive search at Chaffey's library in 2018 so he could learn more about his family's connections to Chaffey.

"We were in the library archives looking at photos, newspapers and yearbooks. It really solidified why I needed to be at Chaffey College," he said. "It just let me know that I was at home."



Hip Hop Summit Speaker Addresses Black Activism and Literacy continued from page 2

Chaffey College Superintendent/President Henry Shannon considered the weeklong celebration timely, especially since the Superbowl featured a showcase of hip hop artists.

"Thank you all for lending your voices, your talents and your influence to help share how hip hop is more than just a music genre," he said. "Hip hop is a cultural movement and a global phenomenon that transcends all generations."

Richardson said that how people define beauty, intelligence and worth is defined by what they have been exposed to and internalized. And that has led to perceptions of Black girls being "bad" and at risk for the school-to-prison pipeline.

Well-known hip hop artists such as Minaj and Cardi B, as well as independent artists such as Noname, have used their talents to counteract this narrative through activism and literacy education, Richardson has detailed in her research. And she calls on girls to consider how they can also impact their own communities and turn the tide.

"So much more work is needed to shift devaluation of Black women and girls," she said.

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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.

Anthropology Major Named Semifinalist for Prestigious Scholarship



Melita Kyritsi-Loper found her passion for archaeology amid the ancient ruins, art and architecture in her native Greece.

Her interest in the field and her academic performance at Chaffey have placed her in the running for a highly-competitive national scholarship.

Kyritsi-Loper has been named a semifinalist for the [Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship](#). She is one of [440 community college students](#) selected out of more than 1,200 applicants throughout the country.

"I feel proud and lucky to have been selected as a semifinalist," she said. "I was certainly not expecting to be chosen. Coming from a background of little opportunity, I feel very grateful to be in the position I am today."

The Rancho Cucamonga resident spent half of her life in Greece and Toronto, Canada. She immigrated to the US in 2019 and came to Chaffey to fulfill her lifelong dream of studying archaeology.

"I found that through the study of my culture's past, I can strive to understand my own place

within the millennia of history that precede me," she said.

She has maintained a 4.0 GPA despite taking more than a full course load – 19 units in fall 2021 and 22 units this semester. She will graduate summa cum laude this spring after being enrolled at Chaffey only 1 1/2 years. Kyritsi-Loper balanced her studies with serving on the Chaffey Anthropology Club, working on a research internship and as a student assistant in the Chaffey Foundation.

Kyritsi-Loper hopes to go to UCLA or UC Irvine, where she would like to continue her studies and one day become a professional archaeologist here and abroad.

"I would also like to translate archaeological research from Greek to English and vice versa," she said. "My hope is to promote this field and make it more accessible."

Winners—who will receive as much as \$55,000 per year to attend a four-year university—will be named in early May.



Save The Date

April
[Student Invitational art exhibition](#)

April 5
[Queering the Bible](#)

April 6
[Authenticity and Challenging Imposter Syndrome](#)

April 8-10
[Theatre Department presents 'Airlines'](#)

April 12
[Shifting from Disability Compliance to an Inclusive Culture](#)

April 13
[Screening and discussion of 'Crutch' documentary](#)

April 20
[The Pride Study](#)