

# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

MARCH 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,

I consider engaging with the community to be one of the most rewarding aspects of my job as superintendent/president. And March gave us many opportunities to meet the people who live and work in our district.

We held three celebrations marking our 140th anniversary. At our Rancho Cucamonga campus alone, around 900 people of all ages gathered in our Sports Center for a fun afternoon to learn about Chaffey College history. We did not let the cloudy, wet weather deter us from staying on schedule. The smiling people on the dance floor, enjoying tacos and ice cream, and grabbing free Chaffey swag showed us that all of the preparations for this event was time well spent. It was also wonderful to see dignitaries such as Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gómez Reyes showing support at the celebration.

I hope that all of our guests went home happy and that some will consider returning to Chaffey College as students.

Our next anniversary will be our sesquicentennial – a long word that simply means a celebration of 150 years. I know that we will have many more milestones and points of pride to share with the community by the time we reach that anniversary.

As we look ahead, it is amazing to think that the academic year is nearly over. We have already been busy preparing for our 106th annual commencement ceremony, auditioning speakers and singers and getting our class of 2023 students ready for their big day. Like community engagement, I find graduations to be especially rewarding because it reminds all of us why we are here – to improve lives through education. The Panthers I shake hands with on the commencement stage will embark on a new chapter in their lives with the wisdom that our talented faculty and staff have given them. What an exciting time!

I hope you continue to enjoy your spring semester.

Go Panthers!

Sincerely,



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

# Chaffey College Black Leaders Share Success Stories

Tomeika Carter knew at an early age that she wanted to be an educator, and spent much of her career as a principal and assistant principal in K-12 schools.

When an opportunity arose to serve in a different role at Chaffey College, she took the chance. Carter now works as director of diversity, equity and inclusion – leading some of Chaffey's most important initiatives. She also serves as interim director of human resources.

“What I learned is to be open to where your life and your skills take you,” she said.

Carter was one of three campus leaders who spoke for the “Black Excellence in Education” panel February 27 during Black History Month. Chaffey College Superintendent/President Henry Shannon and Dean of Business and Applied Technology Yolanda Friday also shared their stories for the panel.

Shannon spoke about experiencing racial segregation in his youth, but that he learned early on the value of gathering wisdom from the people in his neighborhoods.

“What I discovered was that there were a lot of mentors in our neighborhoods like doctors and lawyers,” he said.

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## 140th Anniversary Celebration Draws 900

Around 900 Inland Empire residents gathered for an afternoon of food, music, games and giveaways at Chaffey College's 140th anniversary celebration on March 11.

Chaffey College staff displayed historic images of the college, provided tours of the campus and gave away prizes during a Chaffey College history trivia game. Two more celebrations were held at the Chino and Fontana campuses in March.

“When you look around our area and see all these signs that say Chaffey, it's because of two Canadian brothers who had a vision to establish Chaffey College,” said Chaffey College Superintendent/President Henry Shannon. “We consider ourselves one of the oldest community colleges, if not the oldest, in the state of California. Given our history, I consider Chaffey to be the jewel of the Inland Empire.”

Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gómez Reyes praised Chaffey College for continuing to serve its students throughout the pandemic. She also credited community college education with giving her a solid foundation for her own success.

“I just can't believe it's the 140th anniversary for all of you,” Reyes said. “Happy birthday!”

In addition to informational booths for various Chaffey College departments, visitors had the chance to see demonstrations of robotic equipment from the Industrial Technical Learning Center, as well as a display of electric vehicles from the automotive technology program.

Fontana resident Carlos Nava, whose son Dalan attends Chaffey College, says he is proud to have two sons pursuing a college education. He was impressed with Chaffey's anniversary event.

“They really care for students,” Nava said. “A lot of colleges don't do this.”

English major Nicole Bell brought her sister, Nina, to the celebration to give her a glimpse of college life.

“I haven't decided yet on a college, but I think I want to start here,” Nina Bell said.

Shannon highlighted Chaffey's impact on the region and the country, saying that hundreds of thousands of alumni serve as doctors, lawyers, teachers and in other professions across the country and in the region.

“We want to thank you for being here and being a part of this celebration,” Shannon said.



# San Manuel Culinary Externship Launches with Four Students



For years, Lilah Mavis considered cooking a hobby and not a career.

She worked in fashion design, banking and even in a library before she began to turn her attention back to the kitchen. Her passion for cooking eventually led her to Chaffey College to major in culinary arts.

"I want to have a bistro and a fixed menu, but change it up every month," the Fontana resident said.

Mavis and three other Chaffey students started the new San Manuel Band of Mission Indians externship program for culinary arts students in February. They attended orientation meetings and toured Yaamava' Resort and Casino at San Manuel in Highland, meeting staff members who will train them at the resort's restaurants.

Jeanne Hardemion-Kemp, vice president of operational administration, told the group that cultivating local talent is the right thing to do, and San Manuel anticipated the need for skilled workers long before Yaamava' opened.

"If you're looking at Yaamava' to kickstart your career, you couldn't have picked a better place," she said.

The program is part of a partnership between San Manuel and Chaffey College to create a career pipeline for students in culinary arts and hospitality management. San Manuel awarded the Chaffey College Foundation a \$1.7 million grant in February 2022 to support students in both programs.

Jaylynn Rodriguez, a culinary arts student who also competes on the swim and water polo teams, said she's been interested in cooking since childhood from watching the Food Network.

"I've always wanted to be a pastry chef since I was a little kid," she said.

Maria Zuniga switched from education to culinary arts after taking a couple years of classes at Chaffey College. She, too, wanted to pursue a baking specialty.

Alexia Brooks said she feels lucky to have been selected for the program.

"I am excited and maybe a little nervous," she said.

# Theatre Presents "The Velveteen Rabbit" April 14-15

The classic children's story "The Velveteen Rabbit" has appeared as a musical, a television show and in movies. Now Chaffey College will present the play in April as a "reader's theater" production – giving students a chance to show off their voiceover skills.

It's a play Professor of Theater and Director Kelly Ford-Kaminski says will be perfect for families.

"My goal was to create something for every age to come and watch," she said. "All ages are welcome – from 3 to 99."

The story – written by Margery Williams in 1921 – follows the adventures of the Velveteen Rabbit, a stuffed animal given as a Christmas present to a boy. Ford says the play's themes of "becoming real" and unconditional love are needed in a world dominated by social media and unrealistic expectations of image. It also draws other parallels to current times – Williams' book was written in the wake of the 1918 Spanish Flu, which killed millions of people across the globe.

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THE CHAFFEY COLLEGE THEATRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS  
**THE VELVETEEN RABBIT**  
Adapted for the Stage by  
Janet Allard  
From the book by  
Margery Williams  
Directed by  
Kelly Ford-Kaminski  
APRIL 14TH  
AT 7PM  
APRIL 15TH  
AT 2PM & 6PM  
CHAFFEY COLLEGE THEATRE

An opening performance,  
**Raven Got it Wrong**  
By Charmaine Phipps  
"Poe's raven, famous for his one word,  
"Nevermore" – has forgotten his line!  
He replies to his young friend's sad laments  
with baffling, peculiar responses that  
leave the boy confounded."  
A production based on a poem  
written by Charmaine Phipps,  
inspired by Edgar Allan Poe.

Chaffey College  
Tickets are available online at [/bit.ly/chaffeygotculture](https://bit.ly/chaffeygotculture),  
from the VPA Box Office 909/652.6067, or at the door.  
General Admission \$5  
The Velveteen Rabbit is produced by special arrangement with Stage Partners.  
([www.yourstagepartners.com](http://www.yourstagepartners.com))

# Connect with Us on Social Media



## 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



Rouselle 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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From Shannon's first job earning one dollar per hour as a prescription delivery boy, to his work leading the Chaffey Community College District, he has carried a philosophy that he shares with others.

"Learn as much as you can, but help somebody," he said.

Yolanda Friday found her calling in higher education as an undergraduate student working in a college admissions office. Since then, she's worked in a wide variety

of leadership roles at multiple four-year universities, eventually coming to Chaffey College to serve as director of the Chaffey College Transfer and Career Centers.

She credits her family with giving her the strength and support to succeed.

"You have to be open to the journey, especially if you're looking to advance," Friday said. "You have to be open to the trends out there in higher ed and remain true to who you are, and what your core values and

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"The Velveteen Rabbit" is usually staged where the actors also speak, but this will be a rare occasion where the actors will have off-stage doubles, voicing the characters' lines. The cast includes 41 students.

Theater major Jennifer Flores, who plays the character called "The Skin Horse," says the message behind the play resonates with her.

"It says that we can accept you for how you look and how you are," she said.

Gideon Feinstein, also majoring in theater, took on the role of assistant director for the production. It's a step out of his comfort zone, but an experience he says will benefit his career as a whole.

"I'm imbuing my creative vision onto the other actors instead of just keeping it to my own role," he said.

The play will include an opening act of the newly-staged "Raven Got it Wrong" – a 2022 poetry and illustration book authored by Charmaine Phipps, professor of English and English as a Second Language at Chaffey College.

Performances will be at 7:00p.m. April 14, and at 2:00 and 6:00 p.m. April 15 at Chaffey College's Rancho Cucamonga campus, 5885 Haven Ave. Tickets are [available online](#) and at the door for \$5.



## Save The Date

### April 10

11am – 2pm

Open Mic

Featuring Judah 1 the 1st Poet

Location: The Quad

### April 13

Awareness: Stress, Sexual Assault Prevention and National Counseling Awareness Month

HS-143 or [Zoom](#)

### April 14-15

[The Velveteen Rabbit](#) – Theatre