

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2021

Dr. Henry D. Shannon



VISION STATEMENT
*Chaffey College:
Improving lives
through education.*

A Message from Superintendent/ President Shannon

Our work to support equity and diversity at Chaffey College never stops, but I am especially proud of how our campus community came together for both in February.

The Umoja program hosted a robust selection of Black History Month events that brought us together for music, poetry, engaging discussions and more. The Hip Hop Summit further celebrated the rich culture that exists at Chaffey College and the surrounding community.

The message of Dr. Bettina Love, both contained in her book and shared during her virtual keynote address for Chaffey on February 18, filled me with inspiration. If you have not read Dr. Love's book *We Want to Do More Than Survive* yet, I highly recommend it. Dr. Love shows us how critical it is to dismantle educational practices that create barriers for students of color, and ways that we can accomplish this.

I shared my own thoughts on the importance of educational diversity in an **editorial piece** that ran in *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* magazine on February 8 regarding the long-term consequences we face if college enrollment among people of color continues to decline. It is an issue that concerns all of us, regardless of our ethnicity or heritage. We need to be a part of the solution. I hope we as a campus can have meaningful conversations that result in substantive change and better support for our students.

Sincerely,

Henry D. Shannon, Ph.D.

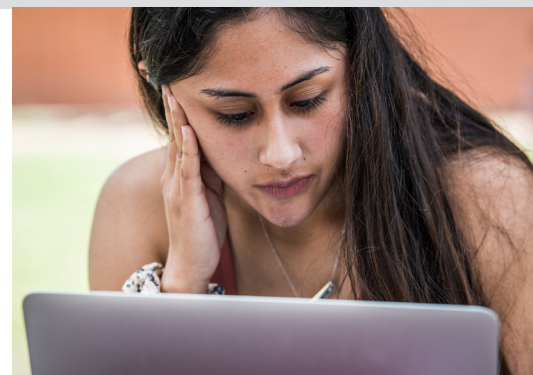
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Chaffey Distributes \$2.1 Million in CARES Funding

Students in February began receiving \$500 grants in the third wave of Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding.

Chaffey College last spring received \$5.7 million in federal funding, which has been used for the grants, distribution of technology, as well as cleaning, sanitation and protective supplies.



More than 10,000 students who have lost jobs or are facing other financial hardships due to the pandemic have received grants

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Hip Hop Keynote Speaker Talks Black Culture, Justice



Dr. Bettina Love in the early 2000s taught mostly poor children of color at a Florida school that was labeled by the state as failing. Some of her students were repeating the third grade for the third time.

That experience served as a catalyst for the message that she shares today with schools and other organizations across the country. She served as Chaffey College's keynote speaker for the Hip Hop Studies Summit on February 18.

"I'm very honored to share a space with you today because we're at a moment in time that's very critical," Love said.

"We need to think very deeply about who we are, who we want to be and how we come out of (the pandemic) stronger, more connected and with a better understanding of the humanity of Black folks."

Covering various topics including the roots of hip hop in Africa, to Black Lives Matter and abolitionist teaching, Love argued that they are elements of "laying siege to the empire," the words of the late Indian author and activist Arundhati Roy.

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to help them push through. Students eligible for CARES grants in the last year who have children younger than 18 will receive additional funding.

Even though people have started to receive the vaccine, the economy will continue experiencing the effects of COVID-19 for some time and we want to ensure our students get the support they need to continue their studies," said Chaffey Superintendent/President Henry Shannon.

Throughout the pandemic Chaffey has also dedicated equity funding to supporting undocumented and international students with grants.

The CARES Act - a \$2.2 trillion stimulus package - was signed into law on March 27. It allocated roughly \$14 billion to support colleges and students.

Poetry, Music Showcased at Jam Session

From gospel hymns and poetry, to emotional tributes to late relatives, the Chaffey College community celebrated Black history with a jam session over Zoom on February 10.

Professor of English Adam Martinez, who moderated the Umoja event, described it as being more intimate than in years' past despite being virtual.

"Not only did we share songs, family stories and poems filled to the brim with authentic thoughts and emotions, but we also talked through them," he said. "We found a closeness as we simultaneously celebrated our ancestors through art and talked through pain together."

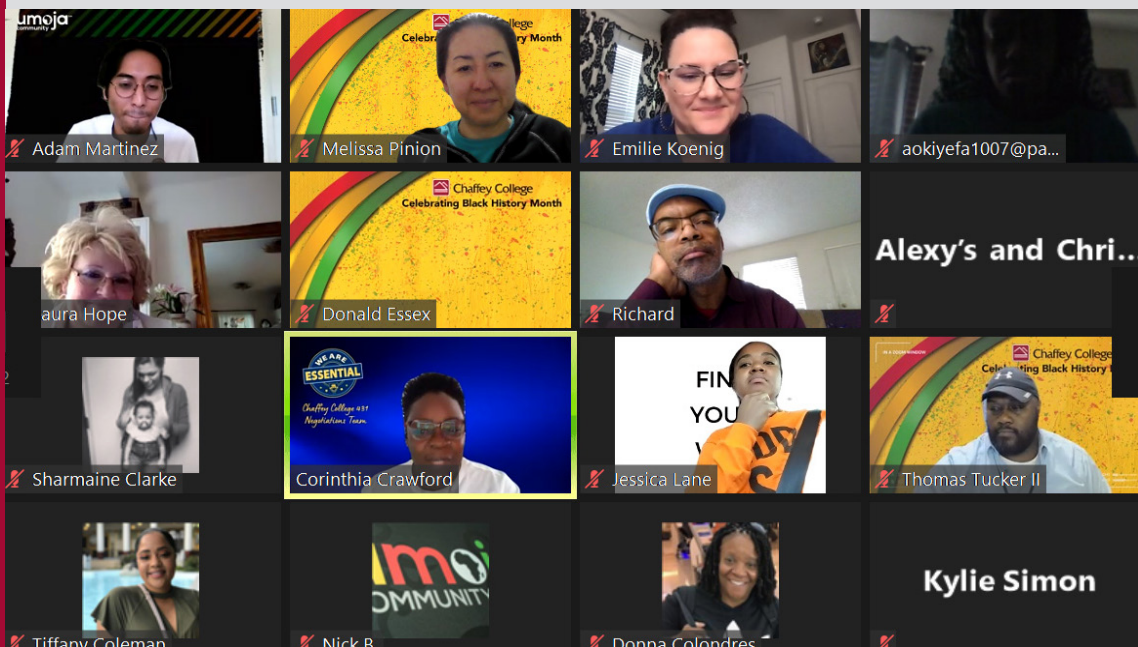
Richard May III, professor of communication studies, read two original poems that paid tribute to jazz legend John Coltrane and also told a story of forgiveness pertaining to his father.

Destiny Love, a fashion merchandising and interior design major, told a story about perseverance and overcoming fear in the context of taking a hike in the mountains.

She prefers to be in person for jam sessions, but participating in a virtual jam session gave her more confidence to share.

"This was great to be able to speak kind of anonymously because I do have issues with speaking my work out loud," she said.

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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.

Poetry, Music Showcased at Jam Session - continued from page 2

Corinthia Crawford, who serves on the Umoja Advisory Committee, sang "Amazing Grace."

"This is something that came to mind that our slaves would probably sing to encourage themselves through their movement," she said.

Hip Hop Keynote Speaker Talks Black Culture, Justice - continued from page 2

"We must use our art, music, creativity and love to tackle the issues of injustice to fight for liberation and see our work as intersectional," she said.

She suggested that colleges can better support students of color by changing policies that place barriers in the way of their success, and that educators should "walk the walk" by taking action on equity resolutions. Love said it's a process that will not be easy, but will benefit schools as a whole.

"It has to start at a very basic level where we change the institution from the inside," she said.



Save The Date

March 3

Beauty Scars of Survival with Jennifer Foxworthy

March 4

The Silent Epidemic with Mark Potter

March 5

Design Talk with Firebelly Design

March 10

Artist Talk with Claudia Alvarez

March 26

#RealTalk Series - Gaslighting

March 26

Design Talk with Thomas Hamdani