

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

JUNE/JULY 2021

Dr. Henry D. Shannon



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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Athletics Return to Campus2
- Poet Brings Message.....2
- Summer Research Opportunity ...3
- Students Get Chromebooks4
- Save the Date4

A Message from Superintendent/ President Shannon

Summer has been busy and full of excitement for us at Chaffey College.

By now, you've probably heard the news about our historic \$25 million donation from MacKenzie Scott.

You can read more about the gift in this newsletter, but I just wanted to share how humbled I am that she chose Chaffey to make a difference in the lives of students. The work we do obviously left an impression on her and we know that our mission aligns with causes for which she is passionate. We will not let her down.

More than 160 faculty, staff and students gathered for a townhall discussion in late June to share ideas for how to spend this money. I am grateful to you all for your input and we have already started making plans for this tremendous gift. No doubt this will go a long way toward programs that will help students in need.

Professor David Karp suggested we place a portion of the donation into an endowment to extend the life of the gift. We should consider funds for apprenticeships and workforce development, suggested InTech Director Sandra Sisco. And Yolanda Friday, dean of business and applied technology, as well as economic development, said Chaffey could really use an entrepreneurship center. These are all fantastic ideas.

This fall, more students will be returning to campus for in-person instruction. Though it won't be at prepandemic levels, we are thankful to be on the road back to normalcy at Chaffey College.

I look forward to seeing you in August, Panthers!

Sincerely,


Henry D. Shannon, Ph.D.



Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott Donates \$25 Million to Chaffey

Chaffey College has received a generous and historic gift of \$25 million from author and philanthropist MacKenzie Scott.

Scott, who has given millions in support of higher education and marginalized people, chose Chaffey because of its dedication to equity.

"Higher education is a proven pathway to opportunity, so we looked for 2- and 4-year institutions successfully educating students who come from communities that have been chronically underserved," she wrote.

continued on page 2

Chaffey College Athletics Returns to Campus



After more than a year apart, 13 Chaffey College athletics teams resumed practices in June and July in preparation for their upcoming seasons.

The slow, safe and sustainable approach that has been developed campus-wide is also being used by athletics officials, who have been organizing safety protocols for players and coaching staff.

"The overall vibe is very positive," said Athletic Director Timi Brown. "All coaches and teams are excited to be back together and doing what they love. We're thrilled our leadership team has provided us this opportunity for return. We are taking protocols seriously, and we can't wait to compete!"

Players and coaches will be tested for COVID-19 and will be required to follow other safety precautions for indoor and outdoor activities.

"We're easing players back by conducting strength and conditioning, and on-field skill development for the summer," Brown said. "No scrimmages or full-contact practices can take place."

continued on page 3

continued from page 1

Chaffey College Superintendent/President Henry Shannon said the college is absolutely overwhelmed by Scott's generosity.

"Headlines across the country detail the ripple effects that Mrs. Scott's gifts have created in the philanthropic world," Shannon said. "The ripple effects we will experience here at Chaffey College and throughout the region will be tremendous. We are extremely grateful to Mrs. Scott."

Chaffey is one of 286 organizations that, in total, received \$2.7 billion in gifts. The organizations include several community and state colleges

Scott has donated hundreds of millions to higher education including Hispanic-Serving Institutions, historically Black colleges and universities and tribal colleges and universities serving Native Americans

She described these organizations and others she has supported as "agents of change."

"Their service supports and empowers people who go on to support and empower others," Scott said.

Chaffey College Governing Board President Gary C. Ovitt credited Shannon's leadership in

driving equity and educational access initiatives with helping the college capture the attention it needed to gain this unsolicited windfall.

Shannon is the 2018 recipient of the Association of Community College Trustees national [CEO of the Year award](#). Also, Chaffey was named a [top 10 community college](#) in the nation by the Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence.

"Chaffey College has seen incredible success under Dr. Shannon's leadership," Ovitt said. "His influence reaches across local, state and national levels with his service on various academic and government organizations. And his work on our campuses has transformed countless lives. While we are surprised and excited to receive Mrs. Scott's gift, I am not surprised that Dr. Shannon and students, faculty and staff are catalysts that led to it."

The leadership of the Chaffey College Governing Board has also played a critical role in securing the gift.

"We are fortunate to be surrounded by the visionary leadership of our Governing Board, executive team and campus community," Shannon said.

Poet Brings Message of 'Black Joy' for Juneteenth Celebration



For poet and pastor Alexander James, Juneteenth represents a time of Black joy. And he shared his insight into that term and more during a Juneteenth celebration talk with the campus community on June 17.

"Black joy is a joy that is bulletproof, a joy that is fireproof, a joy that is Jim Crow proof," he said.

Juneteenth is the anniversary of freedom for many enslaved people who were continuously held captive after the Emancipation Proclamation.

Chaffey's virtual event, organized by Dr. Leticia Romo and the Center for Culture and Social Justice drew students, faculty and staff. Romo opened the talk by announcing President Joe Biden's recent move to acknowledge Juneteenth as an official holiday.

James, who currently serves as youth minister at First Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles, has delivered his message of truth, encouragement and ministry through poetry during his 10-year career.

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

Water polo player Aria Massey, who wants to pursue a career in teaching, said being away from the team for more than a year has been difficult, but she is glad to be back with them.

"I'm loving it so much not only being back with the team, but also doing the sport that I love," she said. "It's the best feeling ever."



continued from page 2

James encouraged Chaffey students to ask themselves, "When was the last time I poured back into the bucket, instead of just pouring out?"

He characterized this duality that exists within the Black American experience as, "fighting monsters while eating mac and cheese."

Recognizing the difficulty of resisting oppression and initiating change, James

encouraged the community to actively seek out and relish in joy that feeds the soul, like eating mac and cheese.

Professor of Psychology Cleopatre Thelus said that her version of this involves experiencing nature.

"Doing nothing and just being while I'm appreciating creation is one of the ways that I engage with mac and cheese."

Students Research Climate Change, Public Health and More



About 85 Chaffey College students collected data about fire-resistant trees, built aerospace parts in Ontario and handled 5-million-year-old fossils.

They were part of the Chaffey College Summer Research Opportunity, an eight-week program where students work with scientists and other professionals in areas such as mathematics, astronomy and anthropology.

"It's a serious commitment," said Linda Lamp, program director. "The students represent Chaffey College, they're getting experience, making connections, networking and working with post-doctoral researchers and professionals."

Associate Professor of Chemistry Maryline Chemama said the summer program can be a game-changer for students upon transferring to a four-year university.

"I have seen students transform from the start to the end, gain confidence and literally bloom with this experience," she said.

Chaffey College Professor of Anthropology Marc Meyer says some of his students have had their research published in leading scientific journals and have had international recognition for their work.

"It is exceedingly rare for an undergraduate student to have a peer-reviewed published article, especially at a two-year college," he said. "My students who are now published authors have successfully leveraged their research projects into a transfer to top schools, scholarships and admission into graduate schools."

Chaffey College has funded its summer program through a Title III STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) grant for five years.

Nick Charland, an engineering major from San Bernardino, joined three other students to assist the U.S. Department of Agriculture with a monitoring project related to the endangered [Quino Checkerspot Butterfly](#).

continued on page 4

Connect with Us on Social Media



continued from page 3

The butterfly and cattle both rely on plants in the Garner Valley area of Riverside County. The USDA study could affect future decisions about where cattle graze.

"It seemed like a cool opportunity and something that will look good on a resume," he said. "I'm always trying to grow my knowledge base."

Journalism students also participate in the program, reporting on their peers' research projects through The Breeze newspaper.

1,000 Students Get Chromebooks, Supplies at Summer Drive-Thrus

Hundreds of students came to Chaffey College to pick up backpacks, WiFi hotspots, paper reams, sketch pads and more during a series of drive-thru distribution events in early June.

Departments such as Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), Disability Programs and Services and CalWORKS normally distribute school supplies on campus to students registered in support programs. But because of COVID-19, departments joined together to help students in a drive-thru format.

"This in-person support is critical to any successful launch of a semester," said Dean of Student Life Amy Nevarez.

For some students, it was the first time being back on campus in more than a year.

"It's a little bit weird," said child development major Jaslin Lopez. "I haven't been able to walk around on campus, but it's been nice to see everything."

Andy Hadle, studio technician and preparator for the Wignall Museum, handed out supplies



such as sketch pads and paint brushes for art students. He also distributed completed works of art that students had left on campus prior to the pandemic

"It's exciting," he said. "Obviously we're taking all the safe precautions, but it's good to see the activity. It's a sign of things moving forward."

Karen Guerrero, who picked up supplies from EOPS at the Fontana campus, has started her third semester as a criminal justice major. She said EOPS has helped pay for her books in addition to the supplies they provide at the start of the semester.

"It's really nice," Guerrero said. "It helps a lot."

Chaffey College Governing Board



Gary C. Ovitt
President



Lee C. McDougal
Vice President



Kathleen Brugger
Clerk



Gloria Negrete McLeod
Immediate Past President



Deana Olivares-Lambert
Member



Rousselle Douge
Student Trustee/
CCSG President

Serving the communities of:

Chino, Chino Hills, Fontana,
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.



Save The Date

Through July 26

[Summer Reading Program](#)
["Between the World and Me"](#)

Through July 27

[Summer Reading Program](#)
["The Undocumented Americans"](#)

Now through August 31

[\(Dis\)Comfort Exhibition](#)

Now available

[Student Invitational Exhibition](#)