

# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

JANUARY 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,

It is my hope that 2022 has so far kept you healthy, safe and energized for the spring semester. January has no doubt been eventful for us here at Chaffey College as we navigate the start of a new year amid yet another surge in COVID-19 cases.

Thankfully, we were prepared for this and I am grateful that with our protocols in place, we have been able to serve our students without skipping a beat, while minimizing the spread of the virus on our campuses.

As always, our goal is to ensure the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff and this remains top of mind as we forge ahead through the semester. Thank you for your continued patience, flexibility and understanding during this time.

I trust that you will take pride with me in knowing that Chaffey is continuing to be a beacon of hope in our community. Thanks in large part to Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF), we recently provided students with more than \$18 million in grants and vaccine incentive funds to help them through the ongoing challenges of the pandemic.

On top of this, we are again offering Campus Store Grants for all currently enrolled students to help cover the cost of books and supplies needed this semester. Students enrolled in 10 units or more get \$500 and those enrolled in 9 units or fewer get \$250 to use at the campus store. With access to Chromebooks, WiFi hotspots, free parking and lunches, it is my hope that our students feel supported and proud to be a Panther right now.

This year, I invite you to keep in perspective the goals you want to accomplish and remember your purpose. Despite the challenges we face, there is always a new opportunity waiting. Let's make 2022 our strongest and most successful year yet!

Sincerely,



Henry D. Shannon, Ph.D.

# Chaffey Awards \$18 Million to Students in Need

Chaffey College students received some holiday cheer in December with the distribution of \$18 million in grants and vaccine incentive funds to help them through the ongoing challenges of the pandemic.

The funding included \$2 million in grants for students who showed proof of vaccination against COVID-19, and \$16 million in emergency funds for students. The emergency grants are part of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) and were awarded to students to assist with financial need.

"While Chaffey College and the region are in a much better place than we were two years ago, many of our students continue to struggle from the lingering effects of the pandemic," said Chaffey College Superintendent/President Henry Shannon. "Our students will play a key role in the economic recovery of our region and it's vital that we provide them with quality training to help them support their families and meet workforce needs."

The Chaffey College Governing Board passed a mandate in August, requiring that all employees and students receiving in-person instruction or services be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The college offered each student enrolled in fall courses the opportunity to receive \$300 as an incentive by demonstrating proof of vaccination.



## 230 Holiday Gifts Distributed in Drive-Thru Event

Chaffey College sociology major Erica Alaniz did not know how she would get her children presents in time for Christmas. Between the financial hurdles of the pandemic, being a single mother and losing a close family member to suicide in November, she was overwhelmed.

But thanks to a toy drive hosted by Chaffey College to benefit the children of in-need students, Alaniz's children - 4-year-old Emiliano and Priciliana, 11 - got some holiday cheer.

"Just the fact that my school does stuff like this is amazing," the Ontario woman said. "It makes my kids feel like they haven't been forgotten."

Chaffey College handed out 230 wrapped presents to more than 100 students during a drive-thru event at the Rancho Cucamonga campus on Dec. 20.

The toy drive benefitted students who are registered with Chaffey's Panther Care, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) and CalWORKs programs, which provide students with various support services including specialized counseling and advocacy.

Panther Care Program Manager Prentice Harris said the annual toy drive provides joy not only to the children receiving the gifts, but also to the staff handing them out.

"By giving holiday gifts to students with children, we're sending a message of hope and cheering them up for the holidays during these tough times," Harris said.

Donations from numerous community partners made the event possible. Donors included P-Luvz Helping Hands Foundation, Volunteers Inland Empire, Chaffey Joint Union High School District and RE/MAX Time Realty on Route 66.





# 48 Nursing Students Honored in Pinning Ceremonies



When Vanessa Madrigal Medina embarked on her journey to become a vocational nurse in early 2020, she had no idea that the stress of her classes would be compounded by a global pandemic.

The Riverside woman and her classmates toughed it out through remote learning and an eight-month hiatus in clinical training as hospitals faced an influx of COVID-19 patients.

"I think because of COVID hitting when it did, our group is closer," Medina said. "I've always been one to push through, but there were times when it was difficult."

Chaffey College honored 17 vocational nursing and 31 associate degree in nursing students during a pair of ceremonies at the Rancho Cucamonga campus on December 16. Both groups are unique in that they normally would have completed their programs months earlier, and their ceremonies - for the first time in Chaffey history - were livestreamed due to the pandemic.

Shelley Eckvahl, who directs the vocational nursing program, said the determination of these students will benefit them in their careers.

"When they were told that they had to learn on computers, iPads and laptops in living rooms and dens and anywhere they could find that was quiet, they could have easily quit and moved onto something less difficult," Eckvahl said. "Nevertheless, they persisted."

Nursing students are required to undergo hundreds of hours of training in hospitals in addition to classroom instruction to complete their programs. But when COVID-19 first forced shutdowns across the country in spring 2020, Chaffey's clinical instruction had to pause.

Jennifer Renteria, a Chaffey alumna and professor in the associate degree in nursing program, said students were ready when they were allowed to return to clinical training.

"This group was like no other," Renteria said. "They refused to give up and they did not take no for an answer. They knew what had to be done, and they did so with grace and respect."



## Connect with Us on Social Media



## Chaffey College Governing Board



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## 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.

# Chaffey Students Land 18 Cybersecurity Jobs, Internships in 2021

Raymond Lugo has only been a cybersecurity major at Chaffey College for around seven months, but he's already working in his trade for San Bernardino County.



"It's phenomenal," Lugo said. "From the way it's been going, I'm hoping I can get a permanent job with them."

Lugo is one of 18 students who received jobs and internships in 2021 through the program. The program's career success has been primarily due to regional funding and Chaffey College's STEM Grant, which allows student interns to be paid, said Dena Mangini, Job Developer and Interim Director of the Chaffey Career Center.

"I am extremely impressed at the outcomes and how, despite the pandemic, the students within this program were able to obtain jobs and internships," Mangini said.

Lugo came to Chaffey in summer 2021 after hearing about the school's cybersecurity program. For Lugo - who has been playing with computers since childhood - it sounded like the perfect fit.

"I have a passion to understand how things work - how a server works, how a car works," he said. "Anything electronic-wise, I want to know how it works."

When he heard that internships were available, he jumped at the opportunity. Lugo has been working as an intern in the information technology department for the county since December. He helps install equipment and programs, troubleshoots for county employees, and more.

His co-workers at the county have encouraged him to keep going after earning his associate's degree, so he hopes to continue on to a four-year university to earn a bachelor's and eventually a master's degree.



## Save The Date

### February 1

[Honoring Dr. Donna Warren](#)  
[Colondres: A Celebration](#)

### February 2

[Real Talk Series: Challenging Intergenerational Trauma](#)

### February 3

[Screening of "BlacKkKlansman"](#)

### February 4

[Black Empowerment Panel: A Discussion of Human Rights Advocacy](#)

### February 7

[Mindfulness Conversations](#)

### February 8

[Black Excellence Panel](#)

### February 11

[Navigating Polyamory](#)

### February 15

[Black Joy Yoga](#)

### February 16

[I am Chaffey](#)

### February 17

[History of the Griots](#)

### February 22-24

[Hip Hop Summit](#)

### February 28

[Hidden Histories: Black Joy and Finding Inspiration](#)

### February 28

[Deadline to apply for degrees/certificates/commencement](#)