

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

FEBRUARY 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 Community Members,

I am always grateful when I get to look back at a successful month and feel a sense of pride for what we have accomplished at Chaffey College. As we know, February is Black History Month and Chaffey hosted several exciting and important events to commemorate this occasion.

Last week we hosted the Chaffey Hip Hop Studies Summit- an annual conference that unites diverse scholars, students, faculty, and artists from local communities to promote social justice and celebrate African American/Black and Brown literacies through hip-hop. Renowned scholar Dr. Todd Craig kicked off the summit with a moving keynote that set the tone for the three-day event, which included workshops on poetry and art, as well as moving discussions around the topic of hip-hop and its influence on our culture.

On another inspiring note, Chaffey hosted a special graduation ceremony this month for 40 graduates of our Turning Point Program at the California Institution for Men in Chino. Seeing our faculty and staff dressed in their cap and gowns to support our graduates as they walked across the stage was both moving and captivating. I cannot think of a better story of redemption.

It is always validating when government leadership takes notice of what we are doing at Chaffey College. This month the InTech Center was visited by California Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis, who praised the Center for its work to prepare students for skilled trades in the manufacturing industry. We also welcomed Congresswoman Norma Torres to Chaffey's Rancho Campus for a round table discussion on the current state of immigration reform and the impact on undocumented students.

It is only the first quarter of the year and we already have so much to celebrate. I am excited to honor Chaffey's legacy during our three 140th Anniversary Celebrations in the coming weeks. [Please RSVP online](#) for our events, which kick off Saturday, March 11 at noon. This is a celebration for Chaffey and our entire community!

Sincerely,

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

40 Graduate from California Institution for Men

Forty Chaffey College students who completed degree and certificate programs at the California Institution for Men (CIM) celebrated their achievements during a Turning Point commencement ceremony on February 10.

Chaffey faculty and staff dressed in graduation regalia, and family members, cheered as the Class of 2023 entered the gymnasium wearing caps, gowns and red Chaffey sashes. A CIM band played "Pomp and Circumstance" as the graduates took their seats.

"You defied the odds," Chaffey College Superintendent/President Henry Shannon said. "Some people probably told you that you couldn't do it, but you did."

Students pursuing college educations while serving prison sentences face numerous challenges, but the pandemic made the process even more difficult. Between quarantines, inmates being transferred and receiving instruction through faculty printouts, the graduates had to persevere to finish.

Valedictorian Stuart Pressly said he and his classmates had to find motivation within themselves to stay on track, but the outcome was worth it. He described learning as a "new addiction."

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California Lieutenant Governor Visits InTech

Wearing a dark face visor and yellow protective gear, California Lieutenant Governor Eleni

Kounalakis aimed a cutting torch at a piece of steel and split it in two. And after the metal cooled, she proudly took her handiwork as a souvenir.

The state's second highest executive officer, who visited the Industrial Technical Learning Center (InTech) on February 2, remarked on the skill involved in welding.

"I came out of a building background, but to be able to do it and understand the pride of the students and those hopeful students who are on the waiting list – it's just cool," Kounalakis said.

Kounalakis praised InTech for its work to prepare students for skilled trades and meet employer demand in the manufacturing industry.

"This will keep California at the vanguard, at the forefront of innovation," she said. "It is so overwhelmingly inspiring to be here and to see what you're doing."

Chaffey College Superintendent/President Henry Shannon said that the program remains strong thanks to its partnerships between Chaffey, California Steel Industries (CSI) and Nucor, but it needs continued funding to maintain its mission.

"We appreciate you being here and supporting not just the Inland Empire, but the entire state of California," Shannon said.

Several students shared testimonials about how InTech has improved their lives including Carlos Morales, an industrial electrician apprentice at CSI.

Morales said he heard about InTech in 2020 while struggling to make ends meet and working long hours at his previous job. While enrolled in the program, a CSI employee who serves as an InTech instructor took him under his wing after seeing his dedication.

"Now I have more time to spend with my wife and daughter and they are so proud of me," he said.



Alumna Shares Entrepreneurial Journey with Business Students



Mariatu Browne '13 had to make critical decisions in 2020 when COVID-19 forced much of the world to shut down, including her hair salon in Rancho Cucamonga. The Chaffey College alumna journeyed across state lines to Las Vegas where she opened a new salon, a business that continues to thrive today.

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More than 100 Gather for Tyre Nichols Vigil

With tealights, and messages of grief and hope, more than 100 Chaffey College students, faculty and staff gathered February 1 to mourn the death of police brutality victim Tyre Nichols.

Photos of the Sacramento man smiling and holding up his son sat on display as members of the campus community spoke about how Nichols' death affected them.

For student Andrea Robert, the incident hit too close to home. The film, television and media major said her son is covered in tattoos and "looks like a gang member," but people don't realize he is a successful lawyer in Minneapolis.

"I worry all the time about him being Black in America," she said.

Nichols was a 29-year-old FedEx employee who was pulled over on January 7 in Memphis. Video footage released by the city of Memphis shows officers dragging Nichols from his car and beating him. Nichols began complaining of shortness of breath after the arrest and died three days later in a hospital.

The five officers involved have since been fired and charged with second-degree murder, assault and kidnapping.

Demia Lotson, president of the Chaffey Black Student Union, struggled to watch the videos.

"As a black woman with a black brother, the first second of that video I cried," she said. "It's hard to talk about, but we need to talk about it. We need to be educated."

Chaffey College Superintendent/President Henry Shannon said educators can play a critical role in preventing similar events from happening in the future by training law enforcement to treat people humanely.

Shannon also said that changing the narrative will also come from students - the next generation of leaders.

"I'm hopeful you are the changemakers for us," he said.

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"As an entrepreneur, you're going to face a lot of roadblocks," she said. "You just cannot stop."

Browne talked about the rewards and challenges of being an entrepreneur during Professor of Business Thierry Brusselle's new "Professor for a Day" lecture series on February 13.

From the painful lessons of shuttering a failed business, to losing an entire staff amid the pandemic, Browne shared the lessons she has learned both in the classroom and in the real world.

Browne earned an associate's degree in business administration from Chaffey College. She went on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees in business at Cal State San Bernardino. She owns Tu Organics Salon and Spa in Las Vegas and Rancho Cucamonga, businesses that specialize in eco-friendly products.

She told students she is currently working to prototype Tu Organics for franchising.

Browne gives back by teaching cosmetology and business classes at Riverside Community College and at Cal State.

She spoke about the qualities an entrepreneur needs to find success, including patience, experience, wisdom and a willingness to step out of your comfort zone.

"You should never stop educating yourself," she said.

Browne also shared with students the value of hiring good people, maintaining good credit and having a good family support system.



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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.

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"Obtaining a college degree has changed my life," he said.

Turning Point Coordinator Steve Lux told graduates he was proud of them, especially considering the hurdles they had to overcome.

"COVID derailed the rest of the world, but it

didn't derail you," he said.

CIM Warden John Merchant congratulated the Class of 2023, telling them that finishing what they started shows ownership.

"This diploma is a good first step toward getting out and staying out," Merchant said.

Chaffey Establishes Training Partnership with Target Corporation

The Chaffey College Industrial Technical Learning Center (InTech) will soon provide training in industrial maintenance and is developing opportunities to offer degree and certificate pathways for Target employees through a new partnership.

The partnership addresses rising workforce needs within Target Corporation and provides employees the chance to advance in their careers.

"Chaffey InTech has provided quality training programs for years thanks to partnerships with California Steel Industries, Inc. and other organizations," said Chaffey College Superintendent/President Henry Shannon. "We are excited to embark on this new alliance with Target, help close the skills gap and boost access to rewarding careers."

Representatives from Target and Amatrol - which provides equipment for training at InTech - met with Chaffey officials in January to tour InTech and discuss next steps. InTech plans to provide two pilot training programs for Target:



industrial maintenance/repair and industrial robotics. The Center also plans to offer Target employees a clear pathway to degree and certificate programs for career advancement opportunities.

"We are honored to work with like-minded partners in education such as Chaffey College and Amatrol," said Joshua Gonzalez, director, technical training centers for Target. "Our vision is to be a leader and innovator and we will achieve this with the support of community partners."

Target plans to add 75 local job openings for maintenance technicians in the next year alone, including 45 in San Bernardino County.



Save The Date

Now through March 4
[Reunion](#) - Wignall Museum

March 1
Zine Fest Discussion - [Zoom](#)

March 6
Artist Talk with Susan Brand - [Zoom](#)

March 9
The Return of Zine Fest - Wignall Museum

March 9
Intersectionality: Women's History Month & Social Workers' Month - HS-143 or [Zoom](#)

March 11
140th Anniversary Celebration
[Rancho Cucamonga campus](#)

March 23
140th Anniversary Celebration - [Chino campus](#)

March 30
140th Anniversary Celebration - [Fontana campus](#)

April 14-15
[The Velveteen Rabbit](#) - Theatre