

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

JANUARY 2024

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,

The start of a new year and a new semester brings much excitement and optimism for the opportunities that lie ahead. At Chaffey College we already have many reasons to celebrate.

This month we received notification that the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) has officially reaffirmed our accreditation for the next seven years! Chaffey was recognized not only for meeting rigorous standards but for fostering a culture of innovation and excellence. I commend the exceptional efforts of our faculty and staff for helping make Chaffey a place where students continue to thrive and find success.

Enrollment for spring semester continues an upward climb, with our unduplicated student head count ahead of where we were at this time last year. We take pride in offering our students multiple sessions each term to reach their academic goals. [Fast Track II session begins March 18!](#)

In this newsletter you will get a glimpse of exciting new opportunities Chaffey students have to get involved not just on campus, but in our community. As we know, Chaffey is not just a place to get an education, but a place where students can make a difference and feel a sense of belonging regardless of their background or identity.

Looking ahead, we will be celebrating Black History Month with a variety of events, activities and celebrations taking place throughout February. Learn more at the [Center for Culture and Social Justice](#).

I am confident that this year will be marked by much more achievements, growth, and memorable moments.

Go Panthers!



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



Nearly 2,000 Students Gather for Spring Club Rush

Enthusiasm and lively chatter filled the air as students gathered during Chaffey College's Welcome Back and Club Rush Celebration.

An estimated 2,000 new and returning students attended the event on January 17 in the Rancho Cucamonga campus quad.

"We've seen a lot of students really excited to get more involved in the campus environment," said Ryan Thomas, a member of the speech and debate club.

From academics to the arts, there were many extracurricular activities that appealed to the different interests of students. Students involved in 40 clubs, 29 which are chartered, came together to represent Chaffey College and encourage potential new members to join.

Ezra Hamilton from the Lavender Coalition said that joining a club can be a great way to make new friends and build community, along with gaining stronger communication skills.

"It gives such an enriching experience to being a student," said Chaffey Anthropology Club Vice President Kira Lavine.

While getting involved on campus sounds simple enough, it can still be an intimidating process for students. Public health major Rose Chen is an international student at Chaffey College and signed up for four different clubs during the event.

"For most students, it's very hard to make new friends," Chen said. "I think joining a club is a very good opportunity to get to know each other."

college classes, as well as numerous high school clubs. Chaffey faculty and staff, as well as his family, helped him stay on track.

"The one model I always stand by is your future self is talking to you right now. What do you want him to say? That's the way I view the world and how I want to view my progression is that your future self is always looking back at what you have done and I want that future self to be proud of everything that I've made strides for."

SolveCC Competition Begins Second Wave

More than a dozen students presented problems affecting their communities in a competition called SolveCC in the fall.

Now the competition has returned for a second round for spring, with students tasked with identifying new problems and proposing solutions.

Solve Community Challenges began at Chaffey in the fall, with students presenting their ideas to a panel of judges in November. The top teams took home thousands of dollars in cash prizes for their work.

"If you missed the first round, here's your chance to contribute to positive change in your community, gain real-world experience, unlock your creativity and compete for a chance at cash prizes," said Preethi Talwar, director of strategic projects.

The competition requires each team to have at least two members, one of which must be a Chaffey College student. Feel free to assemble a team that includes other students, family member, other members of the community or anyone else who shares your passion for problem-solving and community betterment.

Register at [Chaffey College SolveCC](#). The deadline is February 9.



800 Gifts Distributed in Holiday Drive-Thru Event



Children of all ages felt the holiday spirit as they lined up with their parents for Chaffey College's annual gift distribution.

Nearly 800 gifts were carefully wrapped and handed out to families in need on December 18-20 at the Chino, Fontana and Rancho Cucamonga campuses. Students and staff from the three campuses worked together to support the 300 Chaffey students that registered for the event.

"My kids are so excited for the gifts," said Mursal Jeffrey, a nursing major who has been a Chaffey College student for five years.

The three-day drive-thru event is held to support the families of students from CalWORKS, the Chaffey Panther Care program and Chaffey Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), which provide various student support services.

"It shows that Chaffey College cares about the community, not only its students, but also their children," said Panther Care Manager Prentice Harris. "Just to be able to give that hope, that they'll at least have something under the tree is a very rewarding experience."

Gingerbread house and craft kits were also passed out to each student to spread more holiday magic to Chaffey College students and their children.

Rialto resident and professional administrative management major, Alicia Eastman, has participated in the event for three years now.

"It means a lot because Christmas can be hard financially," she said.

Twice as many gifts were collected this year compared to last year, and the holiday tradition will continue for years to come.

It wouldn't have been possible without support from the community. Reach Out of Upland, Volunteers of the Inland Empire, and the Chaffey athletics department all donated to the event.

"It keeps the imagination of Christmas and the hope alive during difficult times," Harris said.

Chaffey Students Take Top Honors at Culinary Competition

Robert Hecht found his calling in the kitchen after switching his major from music to culinary arts in 2022. Since then, he's completed an internship with Disneyworld, won a state cooking competition and has his sights set on a Michelin-starred restaurant job.

Hecht and three other Chaffey culinary students competed in November at the California Assisted Living Association Culinary Knockout in Downey. The contest drew competitors from 10 senior living companies and four culinary programs.

"There was some heavy competition, so I was very shocked to win first place, but I was very happy and grateful," Hecht said.

Hecht won \$750 and Justin Biendara placed third, earning \$250. Jayson Davis and Jader Eli Ruiz Palacios also qualified to compete in the event. All four students received chef's knives and coats, as well as job offers from senior living organizations.

"Our students' success at this competition is a testament to the strength of the culinary arts program, which stood out amongst community colleges across the state," said Chino Campus Dean Margaret Fernandez.

All four students were paired with assisted living chefs for support, but received no advanced notice about what they would be asked to prepare.

Hecht prepared an appetizer, entrée and dessert, particularly winning over the judges with his herb-crusted lamb with grilled broccolini.

He plans to graduate in the spring and has begun applying to Michelin star restaurants.

"I really do appreciate Chef Mark Forde and the program," Hecht said. "It's the heaviest foundation I could have asked for."



Chaffey College "Math and Art" Exhibition Open at Wignall Museum



Equations and engineering may not be the first concepts people associate with origami, but that's exactly what Chaffey College's new "Seeing the Unseen: Math and Art" exhibition will do.

The exhibition – featuring the work of 15 artists – opened January 8 and continues through March 9 at the [Wignall Museum of Contemporary Art](#). Artwork includes the steel 3D printed sculptures of [Bathsheba Grossman](#), as well as a visual exploration of non-Euclidean geometry from "[3-Dimensional.Space](#)" a group of physics and mathematics professors.

"All of the artists either have formal training in math or they have an active interest in math as artists," said Roman Stollenwerk, assistant curator for the museum. "The common link is that they are all actively engaging with math in their work."

Altadena physicist [Robert J. Lang](#), considered a leading master of the art of origami, will present several artworks including "[One in a Billion](#)," painted cast bronze in the shape of an origami unicorn. He collaborated with sculptor Kevin Box, a master at casting paper origami in metal.

"Much of his work is so complex that he actually uses math to determine where to score the fold lines," Stollenwerk said.

The exhibition is a continuation of Chaffey College's "Seeing the Unseen" series, which combines Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) with art. Numerous workshops will be included alongside the exhibition, covering subjects such as how crocheting relates to math, how NASA and JPL use origami to explore the universe, and more.

Chaffey College math professors Morgan Rea and Hannah Seidler-Wright first approached the Wignall Museum with the idea to combine math and art prior to the pandemic. STEM professors plan to incorporate the exhibition into their lessons to show students how their concepts apply to other disciplines.

"Having students make those unseen connections visible and explicit will help them gain confidence in any discipline and will hopefully help them appreciate and get excited about math in ways they had not before," Seidler-Wright said.

Rea said that she and Seidler-Wright wanted to break down the idea that mathematicians and scientists can't be artists.

"Creativity is absolutely necessary for mathematics and the sciences and there are so many mathematical properties at play in the arts, even if they aren't obvious," she said.

The exhibition is free and open to the public Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. The Wignall Museum is located at Chaffey's Rancho Cucamonga campus, 5885 Haven Avenue.

Chaffey Grad Receives UCLA Honors Scholarship



A Chaffey College alumna who graduated as valedictorian has received a prestigious UCLA scholarship geared toward honors students.

Yufei Liang, who is majoring in business economics, will receive a \$5,000 scholarship under the [Transfer Alliance Program](#).

"I am honored and surprised to receive it because the scholarship is highly selective," Liang said. "The scholarship boosts my confidence, acknowledging my academic accomplishments and personal growth."

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Serving the communities of:

Chino, Chino Hills, Fontana,
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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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She is eligible for a second \$5,000 scholarship in her second year if she maintains a 3.0 GPA, completes 45 units by fall 2024 and participates in undergraduate research or an off-campus internship.

Liang is currently studying economics theories and management in her classes, and says that she is surrounded by classmates who are talented and hard working.

"Studying here is definitely a challenge for me, but also an opportunity to learn from others and to grow faster," she said. "I look forward to diving deeper into the economics and business world.

Students qualify for the scholarship by completing a community college honors program.

Liang said that the scholarship and other financial aid has reduced her tuition burden, and will help her start her career with less debt.



Save The Date

Now through March 9

Seeing the Unseen
[Wignall Museum](#)

February 1

Black History Month Kickoff
Sports Center

February 7

Movie Screening: Judas and
the Black Messiah
CAA-211

February 7

Zines and Comics as an Act of
Resistance
[Wignall Museum](#)

February 12

The Infinite Expanse
[Wignall Museum](#)

February 13

Would a Piano by any Other Math
Still Sound as Sweet
TAE-106

February 14

Feminist Love Letters
[Wignall Museum](#)

February 15

Know Yourself: A Dialogue
on Black Identities
WH-161 and [Zoom](#)

February 20

Poemetrics: How Math and
Poetry Intersect
CAA-211

February 20

Black Joy Yoga
CAA Dance Studio and [Zoom](#)

February 21

Beauty: A Discussion
CAA-218

February 22

Black Excellence Panel – [Zoom](#)

February 22

Let's Make a Strandbeest!
[Wignall Museum](#)

February 26

Hyperbolic Crochet
CAA-210

February 27

Music + Art
[Wignall Museum](#)

February 28 to March 1

[Hip Hop Studies Summit](#)