

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

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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 Community,

February was a short yet eventful month for our campus community. As we close the month and look ahead to the busy season of spring events, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge recent campus highlights.

To recognize the significance and importance of our recent reaccreditation by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, each of our campuses hosted celebrations for faculty, staff and students this month. Attendees enjoyed live music, sweet treats and good company as we celebrated a job-well done. Thank you again to our faculty and staff who contributed to this important benchmark.

It was inspiring to see our campus community come together on multiple occasions to celebrate our diversity. We hosted our first Unity in Community event - which drew more than 400 students to the quad to engage with campus equity leaders and programs. Students enjoyed tacos, a DJ, giveaways, and an array of resources that brought greater awareness to the Chaffey support programs available.

We also celebrated Black History Month with a wonderful welcome event that included a BBQ hosted by the Chaffey Car Club, a dialogue on Black identities and discussions that featured Black professionals. Thank you to the Center for Culture and Social Justice for helping to bring programs together that educate and inspire us.

I would also like to recognize and praise our facilities personnel who have worked around the clock this month making repairs and helping to ensure campus safety during heavy rainfall that our campuses experienced. We appreciate all that you do.

On the horizon at Chaffey College is much to look forward to, including the [5th Annual Hip Hop Studies Summit](#), Game-a-Palooza and Zine Fest! at the [Wignall Museum](#) and of course, spring break which will take place March 11-16.

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



Black History Month Celebration Draws 200

The Chaffey College community gathered for an afternoon of food, games and music for the College's kick-off celebration of Black History Month.

Members of the Chaffey Car Club fired up the grill, cooking hot dogs and hamburgers, while students and employees gathered around for games of spades and dominoes.

"We're here in brotherhood, having a good time with one another," said Prentice Harris, Panther Care coordinator. "We're here to celebrate Black culture and enjoy each other's company with the barbecue, music and games."

Several Chaffey departments and community groups set up tables to provide information for the gathering, including financial aid, Reach Out, Costco and San Bernardino County Behavioral Health.

"The people around here are all nice and welcoming," said student Aaron James. "I'm enjoying community and supporting Black culture."

Chaffey hosted numerous events in celebration of Black History Month including a movie screening of "Judas and the Black Messiah," a dialogue on Black identities, a yoga session and a discussion featuring Black professionals. The month culminated with the start of the 5th Annual Hip Hop Studies Summit.

Chaffey Celebrates Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Chaffey College held a trio of celebrations in February after the Western Association of Schools and Colleges reaffirmed Chaffey's accreditation for another seven years.

Chaffey College leaders called the achievement a testament to the commitment that faculty, and administrators have to the College.

"Our students deserve to feel like they belong here, and the peer review team who visited our campuses acknowledged that we are doing this very well. In its key observations and findings, the team observed that Chaffey College fosters a culture of innovation, institutional excellence and inclusivity, saying that Chaffey is 'dedicated to diversity, equity and inclusion,' said Chaffey College Governing Board Vice President Deana Olivares-Lambert.

The decision by the accrediting team was the culmination of more than two years of work and preparation by Chaffey's administrators, faculty and staff.

Chaffey College Superintendent/President Henry D. Shannon expressed gratitude for the commendations the commission made for Chaffey's work to foster a culture of innovation and excellence.

"These commendations highlight our ability to exceed expectations and create a vibrant college culture where ideas are encouraged and developed at all levels," Shannon said. "We are especially proud that the commission did not issue any compliance requirements or recommendations for improving institutional effectiveness, which is a rare accolade."

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges team observed that:

- Chaffey fosters a culture of innovation, institutional excellence and inclusivity, and is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion.
- The College meets all necessary eligibility requirements including authority, operational status, degree programs, the chief executive officer and financial accountability.
- Chaffey is compliant with student achievement, program length and tuition, transfer policies and other standards.
- The College is committed to its mission, academic quality and institutional effectiveness.
- Chaffey offers diverse instructional programs that align with its mission, and provides effective student support.



Unity in Community Draws Hundreds of Students, Employees

More than 200 students, faculty and staff members gathered for Chaffey College's "Unity in Community" event on January 31, enjoying an afternoon of food, music and program information.

The event featured eight groups including Prism and the Lavender Coalition – supporting the undocumented and LGBTQIA+ community – as well as Umoja, Puente, the Center for Culture and Social Justice, Rising Scholars, the ethnic studies program and the Veterans Resource Center.

"It's cool that there is more push for unity and representation," said Charles Mesias, who is in the associate degree in nursing program.

Mesias said it was helpful to learn more about all the programs that Chaffey offers, including Rising Scholars, which supports incarcerated and formerly incarcerated students. Mesias says a formerly incarcerated colleague in his job in licensed vocational nursing expressed interest in college but had doubts because of his background.

"Now I can share this to give them that push," he said.

Psychology major Tyler Canlas and his friend Allyson Cowen, majoring in biology, came to the event when they heard the music. Canlas stopped by the Lavender Coalition table to pick up some flags.

Cowen, who has attended Chaffey since 2022, was glad to see the uptick in activity.

"There's a lot more going on here now and it's nice to see more people," she said.

Pam Schnellbach, adjunct instructional specialist for Rising Scholars, shared information about the program to students at the event.

"There's such a huge population who are formerly incarcerated and feel like they are the forgotten ones," she said. "We don't want them to feel like they're forgotten."



Chaffey College to Host Discussion on Landmark School Desegregation Case



Virginia Guzman

Michael Ramirez

When Virginia Guzman tried to enroll her 8-year-old son in a "whites only" Santa Ana school in the mid-1940s, officials turned her away based on her son's ethnicity.

The Guzman family hired a lawyer, rallied neighborhood support, and joined four other Orange County Latino families in a lawsuit known today as Mendez et al. vs. Westminster et al.

Members of two families who were part of the Orange County case will visit Chaffey College for a talk and panel discussion from **noon to 1:30 p.m. on March 19 in PS-112**. The event is open to the campus community.

"The lecture will encompass social, cultural, and political aspects of the historic case that paved the way for school desegregation in California," said Luis Fernandez, assistant professor of history.

Mendez et al. vs. Westminster et al. influenced the U.S. Supreme Court's Brown vs. Board of Education about a decade later.

The talk and panel will cover the story of five Latino families who filed their case in U.S. District Court in 1947, arguing that their children were being forced into "Schools for Mexicans."

Beverly Guzman-Gallegos and Michael Ramirez, children of two of the plaintiffs, plan to discuss their parents' fight for educational equity.

"Through their personal accounts, they will portray the resilience and determination of their parents in advocating for educational equity for not only their own children but for all children affected by segregation," Fernandez said.

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Fernandez says it's an important case for which people should take an interest. It gives people a chance to appreciate the efforts of the five families and their roles in creating equitable educational policies for all Americans.

"It's important to understand past institutional educational policies that perpetuated inequities," Fernandez said.

All families in the case would help open the doors for their children and all children in California as a result of the ruling that turns 78 years this year on February 19, 1946.

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.



Save The Date

March 6-8
Zine Fest!
[Wignall Museum](#)

Now through March 9
Seeing the Unseen
[Wignall Museum](#)

March 8
Women With Strong
Voices Panel
[CCSJ](#)

February 28 to March 1
Hip Hop Studies Summit

March 11
The Importance of Pronouns
Library 7C or [Zoom](#)

March 4
Game-a-Palooza
[Wignall Museum](#)

March 28
Free Immigration Services
[CCSJ](#)