

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

MAY 2022

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,

Chaffey College marked another important milestone as we celebrated our [105th commencement](#) at our in-person ceremony at the Toyota Arena on May 19. I am still feeling elated from the joy and energy we experienced along with family, friends, faculty and staff who united to cheer on the Class of 2022.

This year we had a record number of valedictorians - 18 - the most in Chaffey College history! In total, we awarded 3,100 degrees and 1,500 certificates. Our ceremony was highlighted by encouraging words from non-other than NBA Champion Metta World Peace, who delivered our keynote.


I hope you were inspired as much as I was during this commencement season - as this is what we collectively work towards - seeing students realizing their dreams. A heart-felt THANK YOU to our faculty and staff whose dedication makes it possible for us to celebrate our students' accomplishments in meaningful ways.

In May, we also celebrated the groundbreaking of the new Chino Instructional Building, a project funded through Measure P and the state. The 35,100 square-foot building will bring new classrooms, an expanded library, a learning resource center and new faculty offices to our Chino campus. I am excited for this project and look forward to its completion in May 2024.

Looking ahead, we are gearing up for our Summer 2022 term and are excited to welcome more students for in-person instruction as well as online. [Classes begin June 6.](#)

As we continue our work through the summer months, I encourage you to also make plans for some rest and relaxation with loved ones. Enjoy the summer and continue to stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,



Henry D. Shannon, Ph.D.

Chaffey Breaks Ground on Chino Instructional Building



Chaffey College students will have access to new classrooms, an expanded library, a learning resource center and more with a 35,100-square-foot building that is being constructed at the Chino campus.

Leaders broke ground on the \$26 million project on May 6.

The project, funded through [Measure P](#) and the state, will also include new faculty offices, outdoor courtyards and spaces for students to collaborate.

"We are always striving to improve the college experience for our students," said Chaffey College Superintendent/President Dr. Henry Shannon. "And as this region continues to grow, so should our campuses."

Chaffey College Governing Board President Gary C. Ovitt said students deserve access to state-of-the-art facilities, especially since programs at Chino's campus such as hospitality management, nursing and culinary arts prepare students for fields that are expected to grow in the coming years.

"It is exciting to see this project come to fruition because it will no doubt serve countless students for generations to come," Ovitt said.

The building is slated for completion in May 2024.



Chaffey Celebrates 105th Commencement

Chaffey College awarded more than 4,600 degrees and certificates to thousands of students in the college's first in-person commencement ceremony in three years.

We celebrated 2,600 students this year, including 18 students receiving the title of valedictorian – the most in Chaffey history. At least two students graduated through the dual enrollment program.

The ceremony, held at Toyota Arena in Ontario on Thursday, May 19, featured keynote speaker Metta World Peace, who spoke of his journey to become a professional basketball player.

"It's truly an honor because where I came from I needed lots of help – help to get through high school, help to get into college, to navigate the urban streets and help to do well in school," he said.

Students were awarded 3,100 degrees and 1,500 certificates.

The median age for degree and certificate earners is 25 years old, with the youngest graduates at 16 years old. The oldest graduate is 73 years old.

More than 81 percent of graduates are from historically underrepresented populations, including 63 percent Latino and eight percent Black.

The average cumulative grade-point average of the class of 2022 increased this year from 3.14 in 2021 to 3.19.

Valedictorians are Fernanda Cervantes Lopez of Ontario; Aileen Chavez Salazar of Bloomington; Dana Derweesh, Dafni Loukia Melita Kyritsi Loper, Ana Mendoza Torres, Qiuyin Tang and Zhenzhen Yang, all of Rancho Cucamonga; Kevin Fenn of Riverside; HannahLeah Oeding and Fiona Li of Chino; Jazmin Garcia of San Bernardino; Alyssa-Lyn Asamura, Katryna Kerth, and Lyndsay Wiedefeld, all of Fontana; Yong Gyun Kim of Jurupa Valley; Danielle Martin of Rialto; Cassidy Mills of Banning; and Denise Yanez of Adelanto.



Chaffey Celebrates LGBTQ+, Latino and Black Graduates

With flowing costumes, pounding drums and big smiles, hundreds of students, friends and family members gathered for Chaffey College's three cultural graduation celebrations on May 6, 7 and 15.

It's a tradition aligning with the college's emphasis on diversity and equity. Chaffey's cultural celebrations – Black, Nuestra (meaning “our” in Spanish) and Lavender (celebrating LGBTQ+ students) – took place at the Rancho Cucamonga campus.

The official commencement ceremony, honoring all Chaffey College students, was held at Toyota Arena on May 19.

“These smaller cultural ceremonies provide meaningful opportunities for us to recognize our underrepresented communities in a way that is more personal and special,” said Chaffey College Superintendent/President Dr. Henry Shannon.

Dr. Leticia Romo, director of student equity and engagement, said the college's cultural celebrations reflect how much Chaffey values inclusivity and equity.

“Statistically, LGBTQ+ students, Latinx students and Black students graduate at lower rates compared to other identities,” Romo said. “The cultural graduations serve as a way of celebrating accomplishment.”

The inaugural Lavender Cultural Graduation Celebration took place virtually in 2021, but returned May 6 in person at the Wignall Museum. Dr. Christine Mata, associate vice chancellor and dean of students at the University of California Riverside served as keynote speaker.

Students and their families gathered for the Black/African American celebration on May 7 outside the Center for the Arts, where African Soul International performed and Dr. Teshia Roby, Cal Poly Pomona associate vice president of learning and research technologies, delivered the keynote address. And hundreds gathered inside the Sports Center for the Nuestra celebration, which included performances by Mariachi Alfaro and a keynote address by Dr. Maria Luz Martinez, of Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.

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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.

Distinguished Service Award

Henry D. Shannon, Ph.D.



Dr. Henry Shannon Receives San Bernardino County Distinguished Service Award

The San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools honored Chaffey College Superintendent/President Dr. Henry Shannon with the "Distinguished Service Award" during a [virtual ceremony on April 28](#).

Recipients chosen for the award display exceptional leadership and make significant contributions to public education in the county, achieving a positive, ongoing impact on the region.

"We chose to nominate Dr. Shannon for this honor because he is so deserving," said Alisha Rosas, associate superintendent of student services and strategic communications. "He has served at Chaffey College since 2007 and as the president/superintendent he has done a phenomenal job. Our graduation rates have increased, our transfer rates have increased. We have made significant strides under his leadership."

Shannon credited public education with helping him achieve success in his own life. Like many of the students Chaffey serves, Shannon said he was the first in his family

to go to college and faced financial barriers during his academic journey.

Shannon, a proponent of equity initiatives, was recognized for his support of programs such as Panther Care and the Center for Culture and Social Justice. Both programs benefit underserved student populations.

"Socioeconomic status to me should not define a person," Shannon said. "A person should be defined by their intellect, their ability to succeed, their ability to put things together and understand for themselves," Shannon said.

The event, sponsored by San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools and the San Bernardino County School Boards Association, also gave the "Distinguished Service Award" to Adrienne Shepherd-Myles of the Career Technical Education Desert/Mountain Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). Numerous organizations and people received the "Education Medal of Honor" including the Fontana Mayor's Education Coalition, Millionaire Mind Kids and Toyota Motor North America.



**Save
The Date**

June

[Student Expo 2022](#)

June 1

[Pride Month Celebration](#)

June 8

[Book Club Wednesdays](#)

June 16

[Honoring Juneteenth](#)