

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 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 College and Community Members,

As we approach the end of another remarkable year, I find myself reflecting on the collective spirit and resilience that defines our extraordinary community. This month Chaffey College students, faculty and staff have demonstrated a shared commitment to education, innovation and excellence.

On November 1, our campus welcomed hundreds of community leaders, educators and high school students from neighboring districts for our 2nd annual Black and Brown Minds & Mattering Conference. Seeing everyone unite on our campus in the name of advocacy and culture was both inspiring and empowering. I am grateful to all those who played a role in this successful event.

We also hosted our annual Report to the Community at the Community Center in Rancho Cucamonga on November 9. This event was a sell-out, as we welcomed nearly 300 community leaders, dignitaries and supporters. The catered luncheon included a performance by the Chaffey College Chamber Choir and a spotlight on our vocational nursing program, new mental health services and dual enrollment. The event culminated with a student panel of three successful dual enrollment graduates who shared their experiences about the program and aspirations for the future. We are so proud of them.

Our Panthers on the field continue to shine. This month, our women’s soccer team secured their 5th consecutive conference title and we look forward to cheering them on all the way to a state championship!

Also this month, our theatre department brought “SpongeBob the Musical” to the stage featuring 37 student actors and a set design fit for Broadway. For those fortunate enough to see these performances, it proved to be a treat the whole family enjoyed.

This time of year always seems to fly by – but it is my hope that the holiday season allows for a well-deserved break. I extend my deepest gratitude to this community for the collective support and dedication to education.

In gratitude,

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



Chaffey Theatre Presents **SpongeBob the Musical**

Chaffey College students brought the adventures of SpongeBob SquarePants and friends to the stage with "SpongeBob the Musical" in November.

The musical, based on the animated Nickelodeon television series, featured 37 student actors, 15 technicians working behind the scenes and a six-piece orchestra, said Sheila Malone, play director and professor of theatre arts.

"The whole play is based on the imagination," Malone said. "Imagining what it would be like to be SpongeBob, Patrick or Squidward - tapping into the human quality of the characters and bringing them to the stage."

The musical focuses on the citizens of Bikini Bottom and an impending volcano eruption that threatens to destroy their town. The characters' teamwork to save their home brings about themes of friendship and unity.

Set designs and props were made of recycled and "found objects" - with walls of sea kelp adorned with the glimmer of green plastic bottles, jellyfish crafted from badminton birdies and party trays and puffer fish fashioned from five-gallon water jugs. It's an underlying statement Malone wanted to make against plastic pollution in the world's oceans.

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Community Leaders Gather for Report to the Community

Nearly 300 educators and community members gathered to hear about dual enrollment, virtual reality nursing and mental wellbeing at Chaffey College's annual Report to the Community at the Goldy S. Lewis Community Center on November 9.

The event drew area superintendents, principals, faculty, as well as city leaders, for a [video presentation](#) of Chaffey's points of pride, and a discussion panel surrounding dual enrollment.

"This year's event was a hot-ticket item, as indicated by how cozy all of us are in this room right now, but you know it's a beautiful indication of how supportive this community is, so thank you again," said Mark Vidal, director of strategic communications. The event included a video presentation that encompassed the use of virtual reality equipment in Chaffey's vocational nursing program, as well as the mental health and student wellness program, supporting students as part of the [10-Point Plan](#).

The video also highlighted Chaffey's dual enrollment program, featuring three dual enrollment students and Upland High School Counselor Jessica Ahumada.

University of California, Riverside psychology major Ma'Kayla Harrison, who took numerous

Chaffey College classes while going to Upland High School, credited her family as her source of motivation to pursue dual enrollment coursework.

"What motivates me to get ahead is my Grandma Linda, who passed due to COVID back in 2021," Harrison said. "She never got the opportunity to fully receive the education she wanted but paved the way for me to do this. My dad has also been my number one supporter cheering me on the entire way."

Jurnee Campbell, an Upland High School student who also plans to pursue psychology, credited her family as well. She said she wants to dedicate her career path toward helping high school students improve their mental health. She also hopes that her eventual career success will allow her mother to retire so she can support her.

"When I become successful, that means she will also be successful," she said. "I can take care of her. I want to retire my mom - she won't have to work another day in her life."

Joaquin Gonzalez-Salgado, a senior at Los Osos High School, has earned four associate's degrees from Chaffey College and continues to take dual enrollment courses. He described navigating a full schedule of high school and

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The upstage area featured a massive 119-panel LED display, featuring underwater scenery and more.

Like the cartoon, the musical contains dialogue and humor that will appeal to both children and adults.

Musical theater major Ninive Carrillo, who played SpongeBob's friend, Sandy Cheeks, said the play appealed to her because of its theme of building and repairing friendships.

300 Gather for Second Annual BBMM Conference

About 300 community members, high school students and members of the Chaffey community gathered for the second annual Black and Brown Minds & Mattering Conference November 1.

The event featured three keynote speakers, 17 workshops, cultural displays and a step performance by UCLA fraternity members.

Daisy Gonzales, deputy chancellor of the California Community Colleges, shared how higher education transformed her life.

"I was told my whole life that I was going to be dead, pregnant or in prison by the time I was 15. And instead, I stepped on a community college campus and that literally saved my life," Gonzales said.

Keynote speakers Tina King, president of San Diego College of Continuing Education, and activist/author Nikkolas Smith also shared their journeys as keynote speakers.

King spoke of "education as liberation," navigating the college system as a teen parent and her mission to expand student access to higher education.

"Throughout my entire career trajectory, I've always been an equity advocate for our students that we serve, but I have also examined how we can truly use education as liberation," she said.

Nikkolas Smith talked about his work in linking art and activism, focusing on issues such as civil rights, police brutality, wildlife conservation, immigration and more in his artwork.

"I wanted to take these stories and shine a light on them through art," he said.

Chaffey College faculty, staff, students and community members presented 17 workshops focusing on various topics such as ancestry, Aztec philosophy, minority veterans and financial literacy.

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."

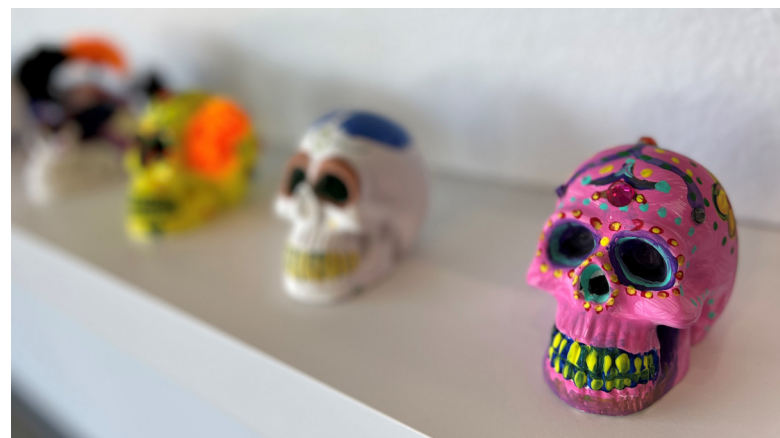


Alumna Meagan Tandy led a mental health workshop for high school students, teaching the teens the importance of mindfulness and being wary of the impact social media can have on students of color.

"It is my pleasure to give back in this way in anything that is surrounding mental health as it pertains to teens, and this is for Black and Brown students - it's exciting," Tandy said.

Montclair High School Senior Arlin Rivera, attended Tandy's workshop and another on applying for scholarships. She's planning to attend University of California, Riverside, to eventually become a pediatrician.

"There aren't many events dedicated to our groups," she said. "People find it nice to have a day dedicated to their culture and background."



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Serving the communities of:

Chino, Chino Hills, Fontana,
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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.

11 Turning Point Students Graduate



Mara Plascencia wore a graduation cap, gown and sash, and stood proudly at the podium for her commencement speech. But she told the audience that had she continued down the path of her former life, she may not have made it there.

"I led a reckless lifestyle in the past," she said. "I didn't see myself living past the age of 19, but here I am."

Plascencia and 10 other women at the California Institution for Women celebrated the completion of degree and certificate programs during an October 28 Chaffey College commencement ceremony. Chaffey College has served both the California Institution for Men and Women through the Turning Point program, which was established in 2004. Since then, more than 400 students have earned degrees and certificates. Of all the students who have taken courses through Turning Point, 94 percent passed their classes.

Turning Point students have continued with Chaffey College post release, at other community colleges, or have gone on to four-year universities, such as UC Berkeley and San Diego State University.

Plascencia is pursuing a bachelor's degree with California State University, Los Angeles.

Associate Warden Delinia Lewis congratulated the graduates for investing in themselves and putting themselves first.

"You have shown today that you can finish what you start," she said. "That is step one in an amazing journey of your life."

Chaffey College Superintendent/President Henry Shannon challenged graduates – who completed their programs in 2020-2023 – to "plant seeds" for future growth. He brought a packet of seeds to illustrate his point.

"We can't change the past, but you can change what you do now," he said.

Angel Navarro, who also served as a graduation speaker, said she previously battled drug addiction and mental health issues, but is now working on transferring to Cal State San Bernardino.

"It was one of the best decisions I've ever made for myself," she said.



Save The Date

December 14 How to Survive Holiday Stress
[Zoom](#)

December 6 and 20 Financial Aid/California Dream Act Assistance
AD-109

December 22 to January 1 Winter Recess
(campus closed)