

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

APRIL 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,

We have reached the busiest and most exciting season of the academic school year. With our 107th commencement less than three weeks away, there is much to look forward to and even more to celebrate at Chaffey College.

I am pleased to share that best-selling author [Reyna Grande](#) will deliver the keynote address at this year's commencement ceremony, taking place at the Toyota Arena on May 16. We expect to fill the Toyota Arena seating capacity with family and friends of graduates. I am looking forward to celebrating the achievements of our Panthers with our faculty and staff.

In the month of April, three Chaffey College Governing Board members were sworn in for four-year terms during the College's monthly Governing Board meeting on April 11. Gary C. Ovitt, Lee C. McDougal and Gloria Negrete-McLeod retained their seats in the March 5 primary election and I am grateful to continue to have such respected and dedicated leaders fostering a brighter future for Chaffey College.

Registration for summer and fall 2024 semesters [opened on April 29](#) with summer term classes set to begin June 3 and fall classes August 12. I look forward to welcoming new and returning Panthers to campus and online very soon.

Our campuses continue to see much progress on Measure P construction projects. The Rancho Cucamonga campus in-particular has a flurry of activity with the construction of the new swimming pool, library/learning commons, MACC Renovation and ADA projects underway. Thank you to our campus community for your patience and flexibility during this time. It will look beautiful! Stay up-to-date on specific projects [here](#).

We are almost at the finish-line. Let's finish the spring term strong!

Go Panthers!

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



Chaffey College Marketing Honored at State Conference

The Chaffey College Strategic Communications Department won three awards on April 11 at the annual Community College Public Relations Organization conference in Santa Cruz.

The department won:

- Gold (first place) - Annual Report Division B for Report to the Community
- Gold (first place) - TV/Digital Streaming Advertisement for the "Are You Ready" commercial
- Bronze (third place) - Promotional Campaign (social media) for the 140th anniversary campaign

The contest included hundreds of entries from community colleges across the state. Judges included journalists, community college marketing professionals, students and more.

The judges complimented Chaffey's use of historical references and their parallels to current times in "Report to the Community."

"Celebrating 140 years, while honoring the past and focusing on the future is not a small feat. You did it," judges wrote.

Bestselling Author Reyna Grande to be Chaffey Commencement Speaker

Award-winning novelist Reyna Grande, who came to the U.S. as an undocumented immigrant at 9-years-old, will serve as keynote speaker for Chaffey College's 107th Commencement Ceremony on May 16.

The ceremony, held at Toyota Arena in Ontario, will celebrate the achievements of about 2,500 Chaffey students.

"Reyna Grande's story shows us that courage, perseverance and determination can lead to a life of prosperity," said Chaffey College Superintendent/President Henry D. Shannon. "Our students have overcome many of their own adversities to graduate, so I am sure our Panthers and their families will find her story inspirational."

Grande, born in Guerrero, Mexico, detailed in her 2012 book "The Distance Between Us" the frightening experience of crossing the border with her father and siblings to "El Otro Lado" or "The Other Side." She started writing at 13

while living and going to school in Highland Park. Writing began as an exercise to learn English faster, but soon became her passion. She enrolled at Pasadena City College in 1994, and then transferred to University of California Santa Cruz where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Literature/Creative Writing. She earned a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from Antioch University.

She has received the American Book Award, the El Premio Aztlán Literary Award and the International Latino Book Award. "The Distance Between Us" was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, a winner of the Eureka! Honor Award from the California Reading Association and the 2017 winner of the International Literacy Association Children's Book Award. Grande also won the 2023 Barnes & Noble Writers for Writers Award and the 2021 California Latino Spirit Award from the California Latino Caucus.



Two Chaffey Students Named Semifinalists for Prestigious Scholarship

The [Jack Kent Cooke Foundation](#) named students Isaac Manzo and Ramia Chaudhary as semifinalists for the Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship.

Winners of the merit scholarship – worth as much as \$55,000 per year for students pursuing a bachelor’s degree – will be named in May. According to [CollegeAdvisor.com](#), the chances of winning the scholarship are around three percent.

The 459 semifinalists were selected out of 1,600 applicants from community colleges in 37 states, plus Washington, DC and the Northern Mariana Islands.

“If I went on to become a finalist it would be a dream come true,” said Manzo.

Manzo, who is earning an associate’s degree in studio art for transfer in May, has identified UC Davis and Amherst College as his dream schools, and has been accepted to both. He hopes to broaden his knowledge in art design and architectural studies, with the plan to eventually become a teacher.

As a first-generation college student with immigrant parents, Manzo considers being named a semifinalist a huge accomplishment.

Manzo and Chaudhary, a member of Chaffey College Student Government, are both set to graduate with honors.

Chaudhary, whose academic and career aspirations center on researching renewable and sustainable energy solutions, credited her professors, counselors and friends at Chaffey with

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Isaac Manzo

Ramia Chaudhary

Dual Enrollment Grad Credits Chaffey with Success



Daisy Alatorre Cervantes already felt proud that she had earned a college degree along with her high school diploma in spring 2023. But the phone call she received before she arrived at Toyota Arena for Chaffey College’s commencement caught her by surprise.

“My counselor said that I was the first person from my district to graduate from college before high school. I got kind of emotional,” she said.

Cervantes joins a growing list of dual enrollment students who have succeeded with college coursework during high school. And she also joins the many other students who have seen the advantages of working ahead academically, with the added benefit of free tuition.

She’s now at UC Berkeley working toward a legal studies bachelor’s degree. While she is keeping her career options open, she has an interest in combining law with human rights advocacy.

Cervantes began taking Chaffey classes in summer 2021 as a sophomore at Kaiser High School in the Fontana Unified School District. She said she felt some pressure taking both high school and college classes during the quarantine, but eventually she was hooked. Cervantes’ two older sisters also attended Chaffey and transferred to Cal State San Bernardino.

“I took a psychology and public speaking class, and once I took them, I fell in love and signed up for more and more,” she said.

She earned a general education transfer degree, and participated in commencement in May. A week later, she returned to Toyota Arena for her high school graduation. She is now pursuing a business administration associate’s degree from Chaffey while going to Berkeley.

At Berkeley – a campus of more than 45,000 students – life can be intimidating for a teen. But Chaffey taught her the importance of completing assignments, meeting deadlines and communicating with professors.

“At freshman orientation, we were using Canvas a lot and I was very familiar with Canvas,” she said. “And a friend of mine who was not familiar was asking me how to use it.”

She’s now on track to finish her bachelor’s degree at 19 years old.

being invaluable in her journey. She hopes to eventually earn a doctorate and contribute toward advancing alternative energy sources through research.

"Being named a semifinalist for the Jack Kent Cooke scholarship is a significant achievement for me personally," she said. "It validates the efforts I've put into my academic pursuits and serves as encouragement to continue striving toward my goals."

Seppy Basili, Executive Director of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation recognized the talent within this year's semifinalists, understanding, the barriers many students face when pursuing their academic goals.

"In light of the challenges that hinder many community college students from achieving their goal of earning a bachelor's degree," he said. "Our Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship makes the journey more achievable and helps to eliminate the threat of student debt."

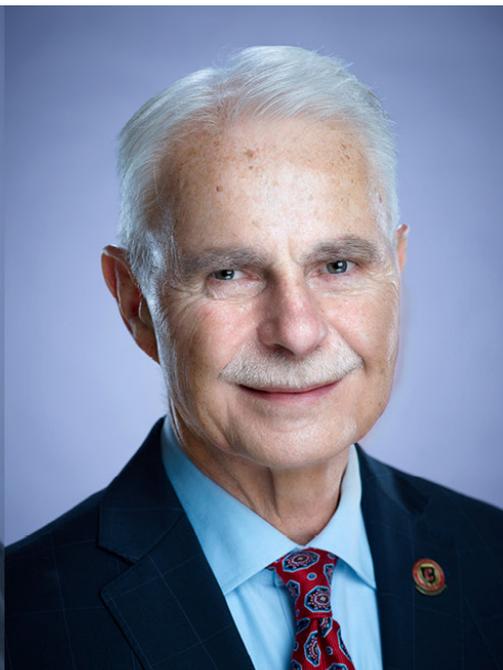
Chaffey College Swears In Governing Board Members Gary C. Ovitt, Gloria Negrete-McLeod and Lee C. McDougal



Lee C. McDougal



Gloria Negrete McLeod



Gary C. Ovitt

Three Chaffey Community College District Governing Board members were sworn in for four-year terms during the College's monthly Governing Board meeting on April 11.

Gary C. Ovitt, serving as member, Immediate Past President Lee C. McDougal and Gloria Negrete-McLeod, clerk, retained their seats in the March 5 primary election. Ovitt and McLeod ran unopposed, while McDougal earned 60 percent of the vote.

"Our Governing Board will play a key role in positioning Chaffey College for success in the coming years," said Chaffey College Superintendent/President Henry D. Shannon. "We are grateful to have such respected, talented and dedicated leaders fostering a brighter future for our region."

Ovitt, who represents Ontario, has served on the board since 2015. He previously served on the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors representing the Fourth District, served as Ontario mayor and councilman and taught social studies at Chaffey High School.

Negrete-McLeod, representing the Chino Valley, was first elected to the Chaffey Governing Board in 2015. She previously served in the California State Assembly, State Senate and the United States Congress.

McDougal, who has served on the Chaffey Governing Board since 2000, retired from the city of Montclair in 2010 after completing 35 years of service for the city, including 18 years as city manager. He earned two bachelor's degrees from the University of California Riverside in urban studies and Black studies.

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Chaffey College Governing Board



Kathleen Brugger
President



Deana Olivares-Lambert
Vice President



Gloria Negrete-McLeod
Clerk



Gary C. Ovitt
Member



Lee C. McDougal
Immediate Past President



Tamia Newman
Student Trustee/
CCSG President

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.

Be the Light That Leads the Way in Mentorship

By Dr. Henry D. Shannon, Ph.D.

Note: The following is an excerpt from an article appearing in the March edition of *Lift Your Voice*. Read the full [article](#).

I first met a young student and basketball player named Romeo Famous while teaching and counseling part-time at Harris-Stowe State College in St. Louis in the mid 1970s.

The philosophy I gave him was simple: Be a student first and an athlete second, as I knew our college was not a hotbed for students to transition to the NBA.

Most of the young men I worked with were like Romeo and me: They grew up in the inner city, and were trying to break the cycle of poverty.

As a person who grew up among segregation and poverty in the Midwest and South, I felt it was my duty to help him and other young men of color succeed.

Romeo graduated from Harris-Stowe and went on to have a successful career with Boeing, but never forgot the mentorship he received from me and other educators.

He flew to California from Missouri last summer to visit his daughter and stop by my office. He thanked me for the guidance I gave him all those years ago.



I have seen the value of mentorship from both sides, as a mentor and a mentee. And I encourage you during National Mentoring Month – and every month of the year – to be a person who can help others unlock their full potential in work and life.

I knew as I advanced in my educational career that my goal was to become a college superintendent/president.

The best way to prepare for a new career is to learn from others who have come before you. I interviewed more than a dozen college presidents to absorb their wisdom and hear about their triumphs. I learned valuable information from all of them, and they all recommended that I complete a doctoral degree, which I did.



Save The Date

Now through May 9

Student Invitational
[Wignall Museum](#)

May 8

Social Science Symposium
CAA 211

May 9

Taking PRIDE in Yourself
[Library 7C](#) or [Zoom](#)

May 16

Commencement
[Toyota Arena](#)