

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 and Community Members,

Back to school season is here! All around us, families are getting back into their daily routines, adapting to new schedules, and following up on goals set earlier in the year. This is one of my most favorite times of the year as it symbolizes a clean slate and an opportunity to turn goals into accomplishments.

We are off to a strong start of the academic year at Chaffey College with our largest student headcount in recorded history! Our dedicated faculty and staff are the reason our students choose Chaffey College, and I look forward to all the energy and excitement this semester will bring.

The core of our mission at Chaffey College is centered on empowering our diverse students and we have never been better positioned to do so like the present. At the current time, our Chaffey College Student Government is the largest student government body in the California Community College system with 42 elected officers for the 2025-2026 year. Our student leaders are advocates for student success and are focused on working alongside administrators, faculty and staff to advance opportunities for all students.

A core of example of student leadership on display was during our Convocation event on August 6th. I had the privilege of being joined on stage by our student government officers for a panel discussion on how Chaffey College is meeting the needs and expectations of students today, and what we can do to improve their experience tomorrow. As our campus grows, are sights are set on listening to our students and building a campus environment that is both welcoming and supportive.

On the horizon are many exciting occasions, including our 34th annual [Chaffey College Foundation Golf Tournament on September 15](#), the [grand opening of our Chino Campus Instructional Building on September 23](#), and our [Black and Brown Minds & Mattering Conference on October 24](#).

Have a great fall semester.

Sincerely,

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

Orientation Day Draws About 1,300 Students

New Panthers grabbed swag and burgers, posed for selfies with the mascots and took campus tours to get a jump on the fall semester during Orientation Day events.

Around 1,300 new students gathered with their classmates at Chaffey's three campuses in preparation for the 2025-2026 academic year. For Chaffey High School graduate Elijah Spencer, seeing the Rancho Cucamonga campus for the first time was eye opening.

"It's great because it gives us a chance to get the vibes of this school," he said. "It's bigger than I thought."

Spencer said he planned to spend the day exploring the campus, particularly the athletics facilities, because he wants to join the football team. He aspires to be an accountant.

It was Roxanne Coteri's first visit to Chaffey's Rancho Cucamonga campus—but it was her mother, Maribel Coteri, who felt the most nervous.

"I'm feeling scared, but being here today will ease my mind," she said.

Roxanne Coteri will be following in the footsteps of her older sister, who is continuing her academic journey at Arizona State University after graduating from Chaffey.

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Chaffey Sees Record Enrollment for Fall

Chaffey College's 2025-2026 fall term started August 11 with the highest fall enrollment and headcount under the college's current student information system, which dates back to 1985. More than 21,800 students were taking more than 60,000 courses for fall.

The number of students increased by 19 percent from fall 2024 and enrollments grew by almost 15 percent. Chaffey welcomed a dozen new faculty members and introduced new classes in areas such as automotive technology, fire technology, public health and geography.

New and returning students met with counselors, picked up materials at the bookstore and reunited with friends around campus. Chaffey College Superintendent/President Henry D. Shannon said students can continue to expect a balance of robust support services, high-quality instruction and ample on-campus activities to engage with their community.

"We are excited for what the new academic year will bring, and pleased to see more and more students choosing Chaffey College to build their futures," Shannon said. "Here, students can get the skills they need to transfer or start careers, with minimal cost. We are proud to offer this service to the Inland Empire."

Students can choose from 11 new courses, such as "Map Interpretation and Analysis" in geography, "Essential Car Care" in automotive technology and "Navigating the U.S. Healthcare System" in public health. New faculty members will be taking on a variety of courses such as ethnic studies, computer information systems, English as a Second Language and vocational nursing, among other subjects.

The college also introduced a journalism degree program at the California Institution for Men, making Chaffey one of the first California community colleges to bring a journalism-specific program to a California state prison.

Nursing students at the Chino campus were the first to start learning in the campus' new \$34.5-million [Chino Instructional Building](#), a 35,000-square-foot project that was completed in May and funded by taxpayers under Measure P.

Construction crews continue to work on several other pending projects such as the [Chaffey Library Learning Commons](#) and the [Michael Alexander Campus Center](#), slated for completion in November and March, respectively.





Journalism Program Expands to California Institution for Men CIM

Chaffey College students in the California Institution for Men will soon be publishing news stories and hosting podcasts under a new associate's degree program in the prison. It is one of the first journalism degree programs offered by a California community college inside a California prison.

Chaffey has been offering certificates and degrees in state prisons since 2004 when its [Rising Scholars](#) program started in the California Institution for Women, and later expanded to CIM. Chaffey began working with officials from California State University Los Angeles about a year ago to offer a transferrable associate's degree that would pair well with their CIM Bachelor of Arts in Humanities. Chaffey chose journalism.

"We were hoping to attract 25 students in the first class, and we ended up getting 50," said Ian Jones, professor of journalism and English.

Some of the new journalism students hope to one day become professional writers. One of the participants, Ryann Jones said he enrolled in the program to broaden his horizons and for the challenge.

"I also want to become a better writer. I want to make my family proud – my wife, my kids, my mom, myself," he said.

Professor Jones saw an opportunity to further enhance the program through a [Scripps Howard Fund grant](#), supporting journalism programs in community colleges. With the \$15,000 grant Chaffey received, the college will be able to assemble a team of journalism students from the Rancho Cucamonga campus to work with the CIM students – providing support in research, data collection and digital publishing. The fellowship will officially launch in September.

"They'll need help with posting, editorial work and research because they don't have access to the Internet," Jones said. "If they need statistics for a story, they have a team of outside journalists who can help."

Lionel Getten, who served as editor-in-chief for Chaffey's newspaper *The Breeze* earlier this year, said he is excited to collaborate with CIM writers and to help them get job skills to succeed post release.

"I can only hope that our program sets the standard of journalism's goal, which is to provide accurate and trustworthy information from an equitable perspective," Getten said. "After all, what's more equitable than giving an overlooked demographic the opportunity to thrive?"

It's the second award Chaffey's journalism program received in about two months. *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* awarded *The Breeze* \$10,000 in May to report on the college's [\\$25 million gift](#) from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott.

The inmates are taking beginning journalism courses now to learn the basics on reporting and writing for news stories. Professor Jones says he is working with the prison to dedicate spaces for recording podcasts and producing news stories – digitally, on paper or both.

Students from Chaffey's newspaper will do their own reporting on CIM, taking on feature stories about [Rising Scholars](#) students at Chaffey's Rancho Cucamonga campus. Rising Scholars serves on-campus students who are formerly incarcerated and are either starting or continuing their education upon release.

For CIM students, the expanded program provides them opportunities that can translate to jobs once they are paroled, Jones said.

"There's definitely an opportunity for these students – who don't have much of a chance to engage with the outside world – to make their stories known, and get their stories out there," Jones said.





Wignall Museum Launches 'Hostile Terrain 94'

Members of the community can help assemble a visual representation of migrant deaths along the U.S.-Mexico border in a new Wignall Museum event that began in August.

It's called "Hostile Terrain 94," an installation developed by the Undocumented Migration Project that illustrates the human cost of U.S. border policies.

"Our proximity to the desert and the U.S.-Mexico border makes issues of migration and immigration especially immediate and personal for our local communities," said Wignall Museum Director Rebecca Trawick.

The two-phase event will begin at Chaffey's Rancho Cucamonga campus on August 25 with workshops where the campus and surrounding community can learn about the project, and fill out "toe tags" of the more than 4,400 migrants who have died since 1994 while trying to cross the Sonoran Desert in Arizona. The exhibition will open in January.

In 1994, the U.S. Border Patrol implemented the immigration enforcement strategy "Prevention Through Deterrence," shifting

illegal border crossings away from urban centers. The strategy has increased the number of migrant deaths due to people crossing in more treacherous areas.

Associate Professor of Anthropology Allison Tripp, who consulted with the planning team to make the workshops and exhibition relevant across disciplines at Chaffey, has encouraged her students to sign up as volunteers.

"The exhibit is raw, factual and emotional," she said. "It reflects the hard realities that many have had to face in search of a better life."

Trawick said that despite the nature of the exhibition, there is an underlying message of hope that participants and viewers can find.

"While reflecting on the human lives lost at the border is undeniably difficult, coming together to honor their memory, engage in dialogue, and deepen our understanding of migration can help us become more compassionate stewards of humanity, the land we inhabit, and the communities we encounter," Trawick said.

Workshops will be 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays now through December 9 (except September 1, 22, 23 and 29 and November 11, 25 and 26) in Center for the Arts (CAA), Room 210. For more information, visit the Wignall Museum.

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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.

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Shelly Embry also wanted to be present to support her daughter, Simeon Sterling. Embry, a community college and Cal State University San Bernardino graduate, is proud that her daughter is pursuing her education at Chaffey College.

"I wanted to be here for her first college experience," she said.

Not all of Chaffey's new students had just graduated high school. For Gerald Wimberly, a 61-year-old broadcasting and cinema major, coming to Chaffey was a chance to finish what he started in his youth.

He attended Cal State University, Northridge, but took a detour from his college path to go work for the U.S. Postal Service. Wimberly decided to come back to school after retiring from his career.

"It always irked me that I didn't finish, so I decided to come back," he said.



Save The Date

September 4
Farmers Market
[Rancho Cucamonga Campus](#)

September 15
Golf Tournament
[Glendora Country Club](#)

September 18
Farmers Market
[Rancho Cucamonga Campus](#)

Interested in Student Life events?
[Check out the calendar online!](#)