

# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

JUNE/JULY 2025

**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,

I trust that the summer months have brought you opportunities for rest and reconnecting with loved ones. It is remarkable that the fall semester is already around the corner and soon our campuses will be abuzz with new and returning students.

This summer we have enjoyed welcoming some of our youngest community members to our new Aquatic Center for our Youth Summer Swim Program. Throughout June and July future Panthers between the ages of six and twelve learned the basics of swim safety and technique at our brand-new state of the art pool made possible by tax-payer support of Measure P. Thank you to those who helped make this program possible and we look forward to expanding this program next summer!

Speaking of Measure P, we have made great progress over the summer on several projects! I am especially looking forward to the grand opening of our new Chino Instructional Building in September followed by the grand opening of our new Library/Learning Commons this winter. Our students have been eagerly anticipating the opening of these facilities and the wait is almost over! The latest Measure P project updates are available [online](#).

This past academic year Chaffey College reached record enrollment, and I would like to commend our dedicated faculty, classified professionals and administrators for the work you have done to serve our students. Access to an affordable education is more important today than ever before and I am so proud that we are able to contribute to the socio-economic mobility of this great community. Fall registration is still open! View our course offerings and [register online](#).

Looking ahead, I am excited that Chaffey College will continue its tradition of supporting student success through scholarships at our 34th Annual Chaffey College Foundation Golf Tournament, which takes place Monday, September 15th at the Glendora Country Club. [Registration is now open](#).

We have an exciting academic year ahead of us!

Sincerely,

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

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

### Global Trade Veteran Joins Chaffey Faculty



Lynn Stewart's entry into global trade happened by accident.

While working as a receptionist for a small manufacturing company in Laguna Hills, she approached the vice

president and suggested he take his product to the international market.

Her boss' reply was quick.

"Go for it," he told her.

But Stewart, fresh out of college with a bachelor's degree in consumer affairs, had only taken one global trade course. She pulled from her classroom knowledge and got on the phone with federal agencies under the U.S. Department of Commerce.

"The more I learned about it, the more I realized, 'This is pretty awesome,'" she said.

Since then, Stewart has gained more than 30 years' experience as an exporter, consultant and teacher. She served the Centers for International Trade Development, the Los Angeles Regional Small Business Development Centers network and spent numerous years teaching and promoting business careers from K-12 to the university level. For more than four years, she served as Orange County regional director for global trade and logistics under the California Community College Chancellor's Office "Doing What Matters for Jobs and the Economy" program.

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### Summer Swim Makes a Splash at Chaffey College

The summer tradition of flutter kicks and floating in the Chaffey pool returned in June with the restart of the summer swim program.

The popular program had been on hold since 2020 when the pool closed for renovation, but Chaffey College officials were glad to bring it back.

"It's a great resource for the community," said Janeth Rodriguez, executive director of enrollment services and student support. "Children who do not have access to a pool at home can gain lifelong skills from instructors who are well-trained, all while seeing what life is like on a college campus."

Parents have had to seek lessons for their children elsewhere while the pool was receiving upgrades.

That's what Alexandra Carrera did with her 10-year-old grandson, Aaron Harlan, who received his initial lessons from an academy in Rancho Cucamonga. She signed up when she discovered the program had returned to Chaffey.

"It's for safety, exercise and he's on the spectrum, so I think it's good for him," she said.

Diana Arias brought her children Camila and Lucas Mora for their first lessons at Chaffey. It's important to her because when she comes to visit her parents, she wants them to be safe in their pool. She was happy that her son, who is autistic, could participate.

"I like that my son was able to take the class without anyone questioning me or turning him away," she said.

The summer swim program has been around for numerous years, with multiple generations of children learning how to swim in Chaffey's pool.

Chaffey College used funds from the \$700 million Measure P bond to renovate the facility, which includes a 400-seat bleacher section with a canopy, a renovated pool and deck and two new buildings that include meeting and office spaces. The center [reopened](#) in March.





## The Breeze Wins \$10,000 Chronicle of Philanthropy Grant

Chaffey College journalism students have received investigative journalism experience, training and even some cash for their work after the Chronicle of Philanthropy awarded The Breeze \$10,000 to report on Chaffey's MacKenzie Scott gift.

It's a yearlong [fellowship](#) aimed at bolstering coverage of nonprofit organizations and philanthropy. Four news outlets including Riverside's Black Voice News received \$30,000 grants to improve coverage of nonprofits, foundations and other groups.

Chaffey College Professor of English and Journalism Ian Jones pitched the idea in the spring of including The Breeze in the fellowship since the college had received \$25 million from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott in 2021. The Chronicle, normally awarding professional newspapers under the fellowship, decided to give The Breeze a shot.

"They said, 'We like the idea so let's meet,'" Jones said.

Since then, the Chronicle assigned one of its staff writers to mentor Chaffey's writers, and also sent an expert to meet with the students about charitable financial documents.

Four Breeze writers - Rene Madrigal, Daniel Graham, Jamila Rhyse Roxas and Andre Manzo - surveyed other community colleges about how they have been spending their [gift money](#) and will publish a follow-up piece in the fall about campus response to the gift.

Roxas, who graduated in May and is continuing her studies at Cal State Long Beach, said the fellowship was fun and challenging.

"It really pushed my team and I to communicate with each other and channel our investigative journalism skills," she said.

The writers made an unexpected discovery while researching Scott's gifts.

"They found out that many schools didn't spend the money right away," Jones said. "It turns out that Chaffey is not as much an outlier as we thought."

The fellowship has been a major opportunity for students, who are getting a taste of professional journalism, Jones said. And learning how to request and examine Freedom of Information Act and tax forms will benefit them in the future.

"These nuances that students are learning to navigate aren't taught in any class," he said.

Roxas said she learned that each writer worked at his or her best because they were collaborating on the project. And receiving compensation made the work that much more rewarding.

"It made me feel like the work that I was doing truly did serve a purpose and that it was informative to anybody looking into the topic," she said.

# Alumna Credits Hospitality Program with Continued Success



When Darlene Jones prepares Claremont Graduate University (CGU) for its annual commencement ceremony, it takes months of planning and juggling many complex moving parts. Those plans had to shift in 2023 when an unexpected storm rolled through Claremont.

"I stayed calm under pressure, implemented our contingency plan and maintained strong communication with all stakeholders to ensure a smooth outcome," she said.

Jones, who serves as event and operations manager at CGU, graduated with an associate's degree in hospitality management and business technology from Chaffey College in 2019. She has served in various sales, marketing and management roles with hotels, Princess Cruise Line and the Ontario Convention Center.

She graduated in May 2025 from Cal Baptist University with a master's degree in organizational leadership, with the hopes of applying her knowledge to leadership roles that help students.

"I truly enjoy working in higher education, and I'm excited about opportunities that allow me to continue making a positive impact on this field," she said.

Jones' role at CGU involves planning and executing university events, including academic conferences, student orientations and community outreach programs. She collaborates with other colleges such as Harvey Mudd, Pitzer and Scripps on various events.

Prior to coming to Claremont, she served as event manager at the Ontario Convention Center, where she monitored and facilitated all events. It was another role that called for keeping her cool under stressful situations.

She credits Chaffey's Hospitality program with preparing her for the workforce.

"One of the most valuable lessons I learned as a student was the importance of adaptability and professionalism. In hospitality, things don't always go as planned, so being able to think quickly and stay calm under pressure is key. I also learned the value of teamwork—collaborating with classmates on group projects taught me how to communicate effectively and respect different perspectives," she said.

Jones said Chaffey also gave her a strong work ethic and time management skills that have helped her stay organized and meet deadlines in her career.

"I've always been passionate about creating memorable experiences for people, whether through events, travel, or customer service. Studying hospitality management at Chaffey College gave me the opportunity to turn that passion into a career," she said.

# Gloria Negrete-McLeod Elected Governing Board President



The [Governing Board](#) for the Chaffey Community College District announced its officers for 2025-2026 at its regular meeting on July 17.

The Chaffey College Governing Board officers are:

- President – Gloria Negrete-McLeod representing the Chino Valley
- Vice President – Gary C. Ovitt representing Ontario
- Clerk – Lee C. McDougal representing Fontana
- Member – Kathleen Brugger representing Rancho Cucamonga
- Immediate Past President – Deana Olivares-Lambert representing Upland

Gloria Negrete-McLeod has served on the board since 2015 following more than two decades of public service. She represented the region in the California State Assembly, State Senate and in the United States Congress.

Gary C. Ovitt was named vice president and Lee C. McDougal was named clerk. Kathleen Brugger will serve as member. Olivares-Lambert was named immediate past president and voting representative to the San Bernardino County Committee on School District Organization.

"I am proud to serve such a dedicated group of leaders who are passionate about Chaffey College's mission and the strategic direction of the college district," said Chaffey College Superintendent/President Henry Shannon. "The Governing Board's decisions are important for our future, and I am confident this reorganization will keep us on track for success."



## Connect with Us on Social Media



## Chaffey College Governing Board



Gloria Negrete-McLeod  
President



Gary C. Ovitt  
Vice President



Lee C. McDougal  
Clerk



Kathleen Brugger  
Member



Deana Olivares-Lambert  
Immediate  
Past President



Matthew Caddell  
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.

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And starting in the fall, Stewart will bring her vast practical knowledge to the classroom with a pair of online [global business courses](#): "Intro to Import/Export" and "International Marketing."

Professor of Business Administration Thierry Brusselle said Stewart will help elevate Chaffey's global business program, with her real-world experience and passion for student success.

"Her expertise and leadership will inspire students to launch global careers and entrepreneurial ventures," he said.

Stewart said she learned early on to surround herself with people with knowledge and experience, and attended every conference and seminar she could find.

She played a key role in supporting efforts to bring international businesses to Orange County, including assisting with the attraction of several UK-based life science companies. And she helped to establish a California state-sponsored presence at the Tokyo International Gift Show, among other achievements.

"That's a big deal for small business because their funds are limited for marketing, so anytime you can get in front of an international audience, that's huge," she said.

But while she learned by doing, her students don't have to.

"Students coming to my class will have the guidance from somebody who's been in the trenches, will help them avoid some of the pitfalls and show them how to do it on their own, if need be," she said.

She recommends the global business program for students with a global mindset, a desire to learn other cultures, problem-solve and have an open mind about how business works in other countries. It's a critical time to have the knowledge, particularly with headlines focusing on trade and tariffs.

"It's always a good thing to have on your resume whether that's your focus or not," Stewart said.



## Save The Date

**August 5**  
**Orientation Day**  
[Fontana/Chino Campus](#)

**August 8**  
**Orientation Day**  
[Rancho Cucamonga campus](#)

**August 11-14**  
**Welcome Week**  
[Student Life/Quad](#)

**August 18-21**  
**Coffee & Community**  
[Student Life Lounge](#)