A Message from Superintendent/President Shannon

The month of April was busy on the Chaffey College campus with students, faculty and staff preparing to finish the spring semester. It was also filled with moments of recognition and pride. This month, we honored six alumni at the Athletic Hall of Fame/Alumni of the Year program, which drew in more than 200 guests. In each honoree, the college was reminded of how the sky is the limit for each and every one of our students.

We are working on creating a “Points of Pride” piece for the college to share more positive news about our programs and how impactful they are not only for students, but also in our communities. For too long Chaffey College has been a “best kept secret” for the Inland Empire and it’s time to reintroduce the work we do not only to each other, but also to the communities we serve.

As commencement quickly approaches and we prepare to graduate the largest class in our history, let us take a moment to realize that in each and every year we complete, we are continuing to meet our mission “of improving lives through education.”

Sincerely,

Henry D. Shannon, Ph.D.

Chaffey College to Receive $1 million Innovation Award

The English Department at Chaffey College was one of 11 recipients statewide to receive a Chancellor’s Higher Education Innovation Award for $1 million.

The award recognizes the outstanding and rapid work of English faculty did over the last year to eliminate lower level English classes that were not conducive to student success and also reform placement practices so that more students from underrepresented groups place directly into transfer-level English classes.

The faculty relied on research that shows students “rise to expectations” and that low placement prevents many from ever receiving degrees. In addition, the faculty moved to place students based on factors like high school GPA rather than standardized tests that often disadvantage students of color. The leads on the project as well as the application were Neil Watkins, Leona Fisher, and Dean Anthony DiSalvo.
Promise Scholars Honors Dr. Shannon

The Ontario-Montclair Schools Foundation held its 2018 Partner Appreciation Event on behalf of the Promise Scholars Program on April 25 at the Ontario Convention Center.

The event honored Chaffey College Superintendent/President Dr. Henry Shannon as its 2018 Key Champion. Chaffey College’s Financial Aid Team was also recognized as volunteers in the program.

Educational leaders and partners were in attendance. Ontario-Montclair School District Superintendent Dr. James Hammond and Chaffey Joint Union High School District Superintendent Dr. Mat Holden both spoke about the importance of Promise Scholars in helping children believe college is a possibility. Both thanked Dr. Shannon for his contributions to these efforts and his leadership.

Ontario-Montclair Schools Foundation Board of Directors Gary Ovitt (also Clerk of the Chaffey College Governing Board) and Marco Robles (also a member of the Chaffey College Foundation Board) presented Dr. Shannon with his award and thanked him for his years of service in education.

Alumni of the Year and Athletic Hall of Fame Honorees Recognized

The Chaffey College Foundation honored six remarkable alumni at its annual dinner held April 12 at the Ontario Doubletree Hotel. Alumni of the Year honorees included Dimple Tansen Ajmera ’06, a city councilwoman; community college professor Tim Arner ’71; and CEO Javier Ramirez ’95. Nominators each shared how this year’s honorees have given back to their communities through philanthropic donations, community services, and national and local advocacy.

The college also inducted three alumni into its Athletic Hall of Fame including, business owner Ruben Ayala ’89 (baseball), Michael Jackson ’92 (basketball), and Sheldon Pace ‘04 (basketball). Ayala, an active community leader in the city of Riverside, played in the minor leagues after graduating from UCR. Jackson, a Los Angeles Police Department employee for 20 years, earned All-Foothill Conference and MVP awards. Sheldon, founder and owner of Xtreme Unity, a non-profit that promotes physical fitness and good eating habits to children, played professional basketball in China and Singapore.

Commencement Speaker Named: Entrepreneur Reggie Webb

The college will celebrate its 101st commencement ceremony on Friday, May 18, 2018, at Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario. The Class of 2018 is anticipated to be the largest in Chaffey College history with nearly 1,000 graduates attending!

The commencement ceremony will feature keynote speaker Reginald “Reggie” Webb, an entrepreneur and McDonald’s franchisee. A local leader in the community, Mr. Webb opened his first restaurant in 1985 in the city of Pomona. Currently, his company has grown to operate 16 restaurants from Baldwin Park to Colton including in the cities of Claremont, La Puente, Montclair, Ontario and San Bernardino in addition to Pomona.

Reggie has served in many elected franchisee leadership positions, including Chairman, National Black McDonald’s Operator Association; Chairman, National Leadership Council (representing all McDonald’s franchises in the U.S.); and Founding Chairman, Global Operator Leadership Council (representing McDonald’s franchisees worldwide).

He has served on many Boards of Directors over his career including; the Los Angeles Urban League, Pomona Valley Hospital, the Los Angeles County Fair Association, and University of La Verne.
Event Helps Students ‘Dress for Success’

The Chaffey College Career Center hosted its 8th Annual Dress for Success event on April 20. Students had the opportunity to pick out an outfit from a wide variety of professional clothing, accessories, and hygiene kits which were donated by staff, faculty, and community members.

“The goal [of this event] is to instill a sense of confidence in students by providing them with professional clothing for the purpose of interviews and day to day on the job wardrobe,” said Student Career Specialist Stephanie Gonzalez. “We expect that students will continue to benefit from this event in the way of it providing confidence at a crucial point in a student’s career exploration journey, interviewing.”

This year’s event served about 250 students who had help from the Career Center when it came to choosing their interview-ready outfit. “The interview process itself can be a daunting experience for students and being prepared with professional clothing builds the confidence needed to make a great impression,” said Student Career Specialist Stephanie Gonzalez.

Grad Fest

Grad Fest, held at all three campuses, provided students with everything they need for commencement. Nearly 1,000 students are expected to participate in the 101st commencement ceremony on May 18.