New Year Advances
College Goal

Every new year brings change. Throughout 2017, Citrus College will introduce new ideas, celebrate accomplishments and experience growth. While this progress is exciting, one overarching goal will remain constant: to increase student success and completion.

This edition of Citrus View shines a spotlight on several college events and activities that help advance this goal. From the upcoming modernization of the Campus Center to the “Career Technical Programs At-A-Glance” brochure and everything in between, Citrus College works diligently to positively impact the lives and futures of our students.

As we settle into 2017, the college community will encounter many opportunities to build upon the legacy of excellence that has become synonymous with Citrus College. Together, we can transform the blank canvas of this new year into a masterpiece.

I thank you for your support.

Dr. Geraldine M. Perri
Superintendent/President

Preparations Continue for Campus Center Modernization

Renovation of the second floor of the Ross L. Handy Campus Center is slated to begin later this year, pending approval from the Division of the State Architect (DSA). Preparation for the project continues, while Citrus College awaits a “green light” from DSA.

According to Claudette E. Dain, vice president of finance and administrative services, the building’s modernization will be extensive. Plans include upgrades to the electrical, mechanical and plumbing infrastructure, as well as the creation of new office spaces, student breakout rooms, storage space and restroom facilities. In addition to these improvements, the walls, flooring and ceiling will receive a complete makeover.

“The project is designed to create a welcoming space for students and staff,” Dain said. “It is a direct reflection of the mission of the college and supports student success.”

Once construction begins, it is expected to take 12 months to complete. As a result, the building will be closed and its offices and activities will be moved to the Educational Development Center.

While plans to close the Campus Center are in place, the start date for the building’s construction is pending.

“Construction will begin once the DSA approves the drawings and the bidding process has been completed,” Dain said. “We are hopeful that approval will be received some time during the first quarter of this calendar year.”

Preparations Continue for Campus Center Modernization

Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees

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Student Services Hosts First Enrollment Fair

Citrus College counselors assisted more than 150 students with the enrollment process and made 1,364 student contacts during a special Winter Enrollment Fair held this past November.

The purpose of the fair was to encourage students to register for Winter Intersession. The celebratory atmosphere included music, a barbecue, appearances by the Citrus Owl mascot and an exciting raffle of 10 highly desirable Citrus College parking passes.

Upon arrival, students were directed by volunteers to the Student Services Building where they received help registering for classes at a designated “Registration Station.” There, they were given access to computers and met with counselors who were available to answer questions and provide assistance.

At the station, counselors reviewed students’ Student Educational Plans, provided prerequisite clearance, assisted students with the completion of their course of study forms and much more. They also shared information about Assist, an online student information system that shows how course credits earned at one public California college can be applied when transferred to another.

“The collaboration between Admissions and Records, Financial Aid, Student Affairs, and Technology and Computer Services (TeCS) was essential to the students’ ability to seamlessly transition from service to service without having to walk to various offices,” said Dr. Martha McDonald, vice president of student services. “I extend a heartfelt thank you to the many faculty, staff and volunteers who made this event a success.”

Board of Trustees Installs New President

Dr. Barbara R. Dickerson was elected president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees.

First elected to the board in 2013, Dr. Dickerson represents Azusa and portions of Duarte. Prior to serving as one of the college’s five governing board members, she served on the Azusa Unified School District Board of Education for eight years. Her professional career began in K-12 education. She has also held leadership roles at a private and a public university.

“I am honored to be named board president and appreciate the support from my fellow Board of Trustees,” Dr. Dickerson said. “I believe my background in K-12 and higher education will serve the college well, and I look forward to a successful year focusing on student success.”

Board members also installed as officers during the meeting were Dr. Patricia A. Rasmussen, vice president; and Mrs. Joanne Montgomery, clerk/secretary. Dr. Edward C. Ortell and Mrs. Susan M. Keith are members of the board. Jennifer Chavez Ramos remains the Student Trustee until May 15. All governing board officer positions are one year terms.

“I am grateful for the dedication, hard work and advocacy of our Board of Trustees which has advanced Citrus College as a local, state and nationally recognized community college,” said Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president.

Dr. Barbara R. Dickerson, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees, represents Azusa and portions of Duarte.
Army National Guard Sergeant Named Student Worker of the Semester

Gloria Camacho, an Army National Guard sergeant, was named the Citrus College Student Worker of the Semester for fall 2016, during a regular meeting of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees.

A liberal arts and humanities major who works in the Hayden Memorial Library, Camacho was honored as part of a recognition initiative sponsored by the Citrus College Supervisor/Confidential Team. Each semester, college departments are encouraged to nominate outstanding student workers. A committee reviews the nominations, and an honoree is selected.

Camacho was nominated because of her outstanding work ethic, superb organizational skills and attention to detail.

“Gloria has shown an extreme amount of enthusiasm in the workplace and consistently produces an impressive quality and quantity of work,” said Lari Kirby, distance education supervisor.

“She demonstrates the same demeanor whether she is dusting shelves, shifting books or helping a student at the Photo ID desk.”

In addition to being a student worker and an active member of the military, Camacho is a busy mother with a 6-year-old daughter. As the Student Worker of the Semester, Camacho received a check for $150 from the Supervisor/Confidential Team and was recognized by the Board of Trustees during the December 6 meeting.

“Gloria is a phenomenal worker, student, wife and mother whose ability to set the bar high is noticed by her co-workers. She is serious about her education, and I am certain she will reach her goals,” Kirby said. “She deserves this award because she is a positive, conscientious student and an exemplary human being.”

“Helping Paws” and Creative Activities Help Students Relieve Stress

The Associated Students of Citrus College (ASCC) and the Hayden Memorial Library recently provided a series of unique activities to help students relieve pre-finals stress.

Students were encouraged to paint their stress away during a “Paint Therapy” workshop hosted by ASCC on November 30. An experienced artist guided approximately 30 students as they recreated a scene featuring an owl.

“The students loved the workshop. It was a great event that exposed them to art and allowed them to relax,” said Dr. Maryann Tolano-Leveque, dean of students.

“Helping Paws” and Creative Activities Help Students Relieve Stress received such positive responses that both ASCC and library staff are hoping to bring them back this spring.

“Citrus College is committed to providing students with resources to help them achieve success in and out of the classroom,” Dr. Tolano-Leveque said. “Stress can negatively impact academic performance, so providing strategies to aid in the reduction of anxiety, particularly during finals week, is one way we can empower students to reach their goals. I received a lot of positive reactions to the art experience event, as well as many requests to bring it back. In response to this feedback, we will be offering this event, and others like it, again.”

Students took a break from studying for finals to pet a therapy dog in the foyer of the Hayden Memorial Library.
Visual Arts Faculty Showcase Talent at Exhibit

The artistic skills of several Citrus College full-time and adjunct faculty members were recently on display in the new Visual Arts Building Art Gallery.

The exhibit, titled “Work at Work,” featured art pieces submitted by 16 of the college’s talented visual arts instructors. A variety of styles, materials and techniques were represented in the exhibit, which included paintings, drawings, photographs, ceramics and mixed media artwork.

“There wasn’t a theme for the work featured in the show. Instead, it was meant to introduce art students, as well as the general student body, to the artwork created by Citrus College’s faculty,” said Dyane Duffy, art instructor and exhibit organizer. “The pieces were inspiring. They showed technical skill, conceptual ideas and new materials. There was even neon duct tape and glitter involved.”

Last fall, the majority of students taking visual arts classes were given tours of the exhibit. According to Duffy, their responses were overwhelmingly positive.

“Some students were really inspired by individual pieces,” she said. “They were also interested in associating the different artwork with professors they have studied under.”

Mike Hillman, ceramics instructor, says he was enthusiastic about contributing work to the exhibit, which opened in December and ran through January.

“This was a great opportunity for us to show our students what we do in addition to teaching,” he said.

The next exhibit to be featured in the art gallery is, “The Only Way Out Is In,” curated by adjunct instructor Rochelle Botello. It will debut on March 1.

Citrus College Gives Back During the Holidays

Faculty and staff supported students in a variety of ways during the recent holiday season. Whether it was by adopting a family, donating food items or participating in a Citrus College Foundation initiative, the college community united to provide an extra helping hand to its student population.

“Giving back” included providing holiday gifts to the children of students in the Cooperative Agencies Resource for Education (CARE) and California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids (CalWORKs) programs.

According to Sara Gonzalez-Tapia, director, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOP&S)/CARE and CalWORKs, 75 children were “adopted” as part of the 2016 Adopt an Angel event. Faculty and staff purchased and wrapped items from the children’s wish lists, as well as books to promote literacy. Santa Claus presented the children with their gifts during a visit on December 1.

“It was a joyful event and the students and children were extremely grateful,” Gonzalez-Tapia said. “The children were happy to prepare thank you cards that were sent to all of the adopters.”

Faculty and staff also donated over 750 food and beverage items at the annual Superintendent/President’s Holiday Social.

“The majority of our homeless students have said that some of their biggest needs are food, drinking water and toiletries,” said Dr. Martha McDonald, vice president of student services. “The donations made during the holiday social helped boost the college’s food pantry.”

Student veterans also benefitted from the college community’s willingness to give. The Citrus College Foundation invited faculty, staff and donors to enter their names for a “Beary Special Drawing” to win one of three oversized stuffed bears. To enter, participants purchased $25 gift cards for current student veterans. More than 50 gift cards were collected and distributed for the holiday season.

“As always, the college community’s enthusiastic response to the requests for donations and support is inspirational,” said Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president. “The generosity exhibited by Citrus College’s faculty and staff during the holiday season sends our student body the message that each of us is committed to their success.”
Projections for California’s job market for the next 10 years show thousands of job openings in skilled professions that require more than a high school diploma. As a result, career technical education (CTE) is experiencing new popularity in traditional and emerging CTE fields.

Currently, Citrus College’s CTE programs encompass 17 CTE degrees, 32 certificates of achievement and 17 skill awards. The wide range of offerings includes nursing, automotive technology, public works, emerging theatre technologies, biotechnology and many others.

To spread the word to local and regional career technicians and high school personnel who assist students interested in enrolling in a CTE program, a team of Citrus College CTE professionals created a resource document titled, “Career Technical Programs At-A-Glance: A Practitioner’s Guide to Certificates of Achievement.”

The detailed guide provides clear, course-sequenced pathways for the college’s CTE programs. Each program includes an overview, curriculum, examples of careers in the field, talking points about careers to use with students and information about what type of certification can be earned.

“Responding to workforce needs is critical to the success and relevance of Citrus College’s CTE programs,” said Dr. Jim Lancaster, dean of curriculum, career/technical and continuing education. “This nuts and bolts publication will be a useful tool for those who advise our future CTE students.”