

## Citrus College Begins Its Centennial Year

Citrus College classrooms were buzzing with excitement as nearly 13,000 students attended the first day of the fall 2014 semester on August 25. In addition to the flurry of activity and camaraderie that defines the beginning of an academic year, the students, faculty, and staff were upbeat and energetic as they returned to classes and activities that will involve the college's Centennial.

"It is an amazing time to be at Citrus College," said Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. "Throughout the year, the college will be engaged in Centennial events and activities that honor our stellar legacy as we continue to offer students every opportunity to academically prepare for their future roles as productive citizens, workers, and leaders."

This semester, 77 percent of Citrus College students are continuing their education at the college. These students have the opportunity to earn an associate degree, receive a career/technical certificate, or transfer to a four-year institution, thanks to the addition of more than 60 class sections. In addition, 41 classes are now offered on Fridays and Saturdays to accommodate students' diverse schedules.

"I am very pleased that the college is offering additional class sections and flexibility in the academic schedule," Dr. Perri said. "We take great pride in being a College of Completion, and I commend the faculty and staff whose diligent and creative efforts are allowing students to achieve their educational goals."

Lori Smith and her daughter Ashley Hansen are among the students who are on track to complete their education. As they began the first week of classes, both were enthusiastic about their experiences as Citrus College students.

"I like Citrus College; it's a community," said Smith, an early childhood education major who plans to transfer to the University of La Verne and become a teacher. "The college has so many resources available to students, and the faculty has a lot to offer."

During the first week of classes, these resources included an array of support services combined with the efforts of staff volunteers. Students' ability to successfully navigate the first days of the fall semester was facilitated by the extended office hours offered by the admissions and records, financial aid, and counseling departments. Volunteers representing Citrus College's managers and supervisors staffed information tables at key points around the college campus. The volunteers answered a variety of questions ranging from building locations to accessing class and schedule information.

The collegial environment and the availability of student support services is an advantage for Hansen, a theater arts major, who is also a student worker at the college's Hayden Memorial Library. The sophomore plans to transfer to California State University, Fullerton.

"I'm glad I chose Citrus College," Hansen commented. "The teachers are great, and I enjoy being a theater arts major."

"It is wonderful to see Citrus College begin its Centennial year with such strong enrollment," said Dr. Patricia A. Rasmussen, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. "I am very proud of the college's 100 years of excellence in providing first-class academic programs and support services that enable students like Lori and Ashley to complete their programs of study at Citrus College, achieve their higher education goals, and establish their careers."