



## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Citrus College Ranks High Among Community Colleges for Post-Graduate Earning Potential**

PayScale, Inc. recognized Citrus College as one of the nation's top 10 public two-year colleges based on alumni earning potential, and fifth among California's 112 community colleges in this category. The report, released September 10, 2014, encompassed data collected from 349 public and private institutions and included early-career and mid-career median salaries for alumni who earned associate degrees. Overall, public community colleges out-performed private career colleges in terms of associate degree-only graduate salaries.

This information allows students and their parents to add future earning potential to the list of criteria when selecting a college and facilitates a more informed decision about choosing a major and a career path.

"Given the trend of rising tuition costs and the fiercely competitive employment climate facing all college graduates, PayScale's ranking gives prospective students invaluable information as they compare colleges," said Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. "This report affirms the expertise and commitment of our faculty and staff, who dedicate themselves to preparing Citrus College graduates with practical and relevant skills for today's marketplace."

A rich transfer culture and an emphasis on workforce development reflect Citrus College's commitment to college completion and student success. The college's Career/Technical Education (CTE) Program, which comprises 16 programs of study, prepares students for real-world jobs.

"We have strong partnerships with local companies in business and industry, nursing and health care, information technology, and more," said James Lancaster, Ed.D., dean of Curriculum, Career/Technical, and Continuing Education. "A high percentage of Citrus College graduates find

jobs immediately. Tesla Motors, one of the highest-paying automakers, recently hired three students immediately after they completed our Automotive Technology Program.”

The college stays competitive by continually developing college and industry relationships, preparing faculty with the latest technology and knowledge base, offering the most relevant curricula, and maintaining a high retention rate. According to the 2014 Student Success Scorecard, issued by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, Citrus College posted a CTE completion rate of 62.8 percent, nearly 9 percentage points higher than the statewide average of 53.9 percent.

“We are honored to be included at the top of this list of high-earning alumni,” said Dr. Patricia A. Rasmussen, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. “Our goal at Citrus College is to equip every student with the skills and resources to achieve success in the classroom and the workplace, well positioned for professional and fiscal health. “

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