



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Citrus College Celebrates Highest Number of Graduates at Annual Ceremony**

**Glendora, CA** – Citrus College celebrated the academic achievements of 1,425 graduates, the highest number in institutional history, during its annual Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, June 11, 2016.

The Citrus College Class of 2016 is nearly 25 percent larger than that of the previous year and breaks a 100-year record for the total number of students receiving associate degrees. These impressive completion rates mark the continuation of an institutional trend that has resulted in Citrus College being ranked 12<sup>th</sup> out of more than 1,100 community colleges in the United States in awarding associate degrees to Hispanic students.

Glendora resident Maxime Tondre is a member of this year's graduating class. A player on the Men's Basketball Team, Tondre says he enrolled as an average student who was mainly interested in the college's Athletics Program. However, the 23-year-old business major experienced a transformation during his time at Citrus College and was recently honored for having one of the highest overall academic performances during the 2015-2016 academic year.

Tondre will be transferring to a four-year university in the fall and hopes to one day empower and educate students in Western Africa.

"I am convinced that Citrus College provided me with the tools I needed to reach my full potential," Tondre said. "I believe that my education will serve as the foundation for my future success, and I hope that it allows me to serve as an example and inspire others to follow a similar path."

Azusa resident Charmaine Foster was also among those who received their degree during Saturday's ceremony. A veteran of the Army National Guard and a licensed real estate agent, Foster enrolled in classes at Citrus College after falling on difficult times.

“I was single, pregnant and facing eviction. Even after giving birth to my daughter, I had to move back and forth from the homes of various family members to keep a roof over our heads,” she remembers. “However, everything changed when I enrolled at Citrus College. Instead of living a nightmare, I was soon pursuing my dream.”

The 41-year-old business administration major will be continuing her education at California Polytechnic University, Pomona in the fall. She hopes to become a real estate broker and open her own property management business.

Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president, says that the experiences of these two graduates are representative of many Citrus College students.

“The stories of success and achievement shared by the Class of 2016 are inspirational,” she said. “It is an honor for Citrus College to be part of each student’s journey toward academic, professional, and personal growth. On behalf of the entire college community, I congratulate each graduate on reaching the significant milestone of earning an associate degree.”

In addition to celebrating graduates, the 2016 Commencement Ceremony also provided Citrus College with the opportunity to honor outstanding alumni. Cecil Brower, Class of 1993; John McHann, Class of 1959; and Douglas Tessitor, Class of 1967 were each presented with a 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award during the event, based on their educational journeys, professional backgrounds, and community service, which exemplify the institution’s vision and mission.

“This year’s Distinguished Alumni honorees are highly respected by their peers and colleagues, and they serve as excellent examples of successful and productive citizens,” said Mrs. Susan M. Keith, president of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. “Each person who was recognized during the 2016 Commencement Ceremony, whether they are a graduate or alumnus, has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to excellence that has allowed them to achieve success. It is individuals like these who have helped Citrus College become a national leader in higher education.”



**Happy Graduates:** The Citrus College Class of 2016 is nearly 25 percent larger than that of the previous year and breaks a 100-year record for the total number of students receiving associate degrees.



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