



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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**Citrus College Dedicates New \$19 Million Visual Arts Building**

***Facility Expands Opportunities for Visual and Performing Arts Students***

**Glendora, CA** – After several years of planning and nearly two years of construction, Citrus College visual arts faculty and students have a new place to call home. During the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony held Tuesday, September 6, college officials, faculty, staff, students, dignitaries and community members celebrated the much-anticipated opening of the Visual Arts Building.

The \$19 million project brings nearly 37,000 square feet of educational space online for the college. The facility replaces the original Arts Center, built in 1964. The new Visual Arts Building, home to Citrus College's rapidly expanding arts programs, features studios equipped for drawing, painting, printmaking, digital design, transmedia, animation, mixed media and photo and video production, a 150-seat lecture hall, an art gallery, computer labs, a ceramics lab, general purpose classrooms, faculty offices and a space for Citrus College's student newspaper, the *Clarion*.

"I can only imagine the future artists who will be educated in this very facility," said Geraldine Perri, Ph.D., superintendent/president of Citrus College. She said the building's development reflects the college's deep commitment to the arts industry and its emerging occupations. "While the Visual Arts building will surely contribute to developing talented students who will make their mark on society, Citrus College's dedicated faculty and staff have a long record of success, having prepared hundreds of outstanding artists for thriving careers."

Faculty and staff began moving into the new building in August, eager to turn the aesthetically pleasing facility into a highly effective learning environment. "The new Visual Arts Building at Citrus College was

designed to create unlimited collaborative opportunities for visual and performing arts students,” said Robert Slack, dean, Visual and Performing Arts. “The expansion of design, production and interactive media curriculum can now be successfully realized.”

Throughout the years, Citrus College has earned a reputation as a leader in visual and performing arts education. “We have created a legacy that will have a lasting impact on generations to come. This extraordinary new Visual Arts Building is part of that legacy,” said Dr. Perri.

The three-story project was funded by Measure G, a general obligation bond measure approved in 2004 by voters in the Citrus Community College District. “The Visual Arts Building is an example of ‘Your Measure G Dollars at Work’ and I thank you, members of our communities, for supporting Measure G in 2004,” said Mrs. Susan M. Keith, president, Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. “I also want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our elected officials from all levels of government and our partners in education for their steadfast support of Citrus College,” added Mrs. Keith.

During the dedication, Citrus College received certificates of recognition from Congresswoman Judy Chu, 27<sup>th</sup> Congressional District; Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, 32<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District; Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, 5<sup>th</sup> District; Senator Carol Liu, 25<sup>th</sup> Senate District; Senator Dr. Ed Hernandez, 22<sup>nd</sup> Senate District; Assemblymember Chris Holden, 41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District; Assemblymember Roger Hernandez, 48<sup>th</sup> Assembly District; the City of Azusa and the City of Glendora.

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, guests enjoyed refreshments, listened to a live performance from The Castaways, a Citrus College student musical group, and were led on tours of the new Visual Arts Building by student ambassadors.



**Photo Caption:** Citrus College held a festive dedication program for the new \$19 million Visual Arts Building on September 6. Superintendent/President Geraldine Perri, Ph.D., joined the Citrus College Community District Board of Trustees for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

*Pictured, from left to right: Ms. Jennifer Chavez Ramos, student trustee; Dr. Barbara R. Dickerson, vice president; Dr. Perri; Mrs. Susan Keith, president; Dr. Patricia A. Rasmussen, clerk/secretary; Mrs. Joanne Montgomery, member; and Dr. Edward C. Ortell, member.*