

Citrus VIEW

—LATEST NEWS FROM CITRUS COLLEGE—

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Student achievement celebrated at annual ceremony

Recipients of the 2024 Key of Knowledge awards, which is the highest academic honor granted by Citrus College.

More than 100 Citrus College students were recently recognized for their stellar academic performances and positive contributions to the campus community during the 61st annual Achievement Awards Ceremony.

Family and friends joined Citrus College faculty and staff in the Haugh Performing Arts Center on May 23 to celebrate the accomplishments of some of college's best and brightest students.

"It is important to take the opportunity to pause and reflect on how far our students have come and all they have accomplished," said Dr. Greg Schulz, superintendent/president of Citrus College. "Not only does this ceremony affirm the hard work they have invested into the pursuit of their dreams, it also reinforces our sense of purpose as a campus community."

Among the recognitions presented during the celebration were the prestigious Key of Knowledge awards, which constitutes the college's highest academic honor. This year's recipients were Abiodun Collins, Boluwatife Collins,

Lorenzo "Laurie" Desiderio Giampiccolo, Sabre F. Iglesias, Arianna Sabaei, Matt Siasoco, Sabrina Soriano, Jialu Sun, Brian Tong and Charles Zhu.

Also awarded during the ceremony were the 2024 Service Leader of the Year honors, which were presented to Sabrina Soriano and Charles Zhu. The 2024 Female Athlete of the Year honor was presented to golfer Isabelle Olivas-Lowell, while the 2024 Male Athlete of the Year honor was presented to baseball player Jaden St. Cyr.

Finally, Distinguished Student Awards were presented to 100 scholars whose high academic success in a given program placed them at the top of their class.

"The Achievement Awards Ceremony, and the success it celebrates, is just the beginning for these students. Their accomplishments in and out of the classroom foretell bright futures," Superintendent/President Schulz said. "On behalf of the board of trustees and entire campus community, I congratulate each honoree on their many accomplishments."



Ceremony shines spotlight on queer student success



Citrus College hosted its first-ever Lavender celebration on May 20.

The personal, professional and academic accomplishments of LGBTQIA+ students at Citrus College were recently honored during the first-ever Lavender celebration.

Last month, faculty, staff and administrators joined LGBTQIA+ students and their supporters in the Campus Center. The festive event included a catered lunch, live jazz music, a photo booth and an appearance from the college mascot, Hootie.

"Over the years, the color lavender has been symbolic of LGBTQIA+ resistance and empowerment. It has also become a symbol of hope," explained Pride Center Coordinator Anastasia Arnestad. "The Lavender celebration is a wonderful end-of-year event that not only allows our LGBTQIA+ students to share their hopes and dreams with one another, it also enables the campus community to officially recognize and celebrate the unique LGBTQIA+ student experience."

One of the ceremony's highlights was the presentation of graduation stoles. Five students who identify as part of the college's queer community earned either an associate degree or a certificate, or will be transferring in the fall. They were each given a lavender stole to be worn during this year's commencement ceremony.

Another highlight was the acknowledgement of the Ally of the Year. Laura J. Bollinger, member of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees, was honored for demonstrating unwavering support and commitment to the LGBTQIA+ community, and for making a profound impact through her actions, advocacy and leadership.

"Trustee Bollinger's allyship during her time as a student at Citrus College and her continued support of the Pride Center in her role as a trustee are commendable," said Arnestad. "She exemplifies the true essence of allyship by standing in solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community, amplifying their voices, and actively working toward a more inclusive and equitable society."

The ceremony concluded with an open mic opportunity, which allowed attendees to share their memories, plans for the future and feelings with their classmates and families.

"Whether they are wrapping up their first semester, concluding their Citrus College education or have simply taken another step toward reaching their academic goals, our LGBTQIA+ students have accomplished a lot this year," said Superintendent/President Schulz. "My hope is that this celebration was both meaningful and personal for each honoree, and that they all left the event feeling appreciated, loved and supported by their Citrus College family."



Campus gears up for commencement on June 14



Citrus College will award more than 1,750 associate degrees during the 2024 commencement ceremony.

As the spring semester wraps up, the entire campus community is looking forward to celebrating the Class of 2024 at the 108th annual Citrus College commencement ceremony on June 14.

Held at the Citrus Stadium, the event will feature performances from the Citrus College Sierra Wind Symphony as well as other performing arts students. During the ceremony, Superintendent/President Schulz and Brian Tong, the 2023-2024 president of the Associated Students of Citrus College, will speak to attendees.

In addition to honoring graduates, the event will also recognize Ron Husband as the recipient of the 2024 Distinguished Alumni

Award. Husband, who graduated from Citrus College in 1971, was the first African American supervising animator to work for Walt Disney Studios.

Priscilla Englert, an automotive technology instructor, will be celebrated as the 2024 Distinguished Faculty Award recipient. Since becoming a full-time instructor in 2019, Englert has made a significant impact on the Citrus College Career, Technical and Continuing Education Division.

No tickets or parking permits will be required for the event. Attendees are encouraged to arrive by 5 p.m. The ceremony begins at 6 p.m.

For more information, visit www.citruscollege.edu/commencement2024.

Cambridge is next stop on Citrus alumna's incredible journey

Paulina Pimentel-Mora, a Citrus College and Yale University alumna, will soon be attending the University of Cambridge in England.

A recipient of the Sidney Hellman Ehrman Fellowship, Paulina will pursue a Master of Philosophy in Health, Medicine and Society degree at King's College, Cambridge, one of 31 colleges that make up the University of Cambridge. Her research will focus on the nuances of women's reproductive autonomy across diverse cultural backgrounds.

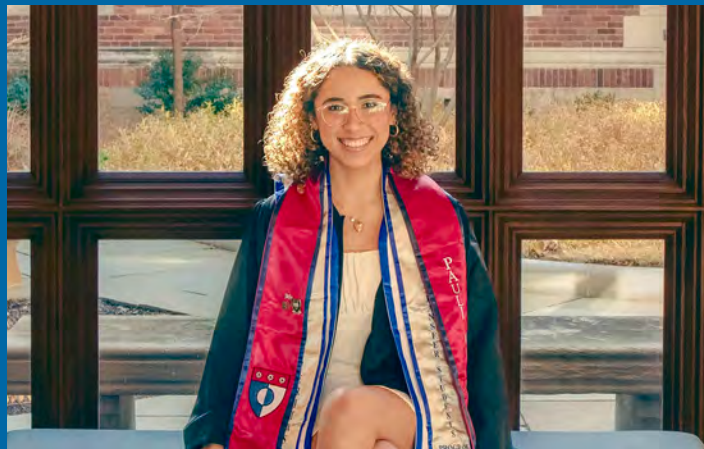
"Having previously studied abroad for a semester at the University of Oxford during my undergraduate experience, I developed a deep love for the country. I can't wait to return to the U.K.," Paulina said.

As an Owl, Paulina excelled academically, earning three associate degrees in political sciences, history and Spanish in 2021. In addition to serving as a student assistant in the Student Wellness Center, Paulina was also involved in the honors transfer program, the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the Associated Students of Citrus College.

"I could genuinely speak for hours about my time at Citrus College, and I can't think of a single negative aspect of my experience there," Paulina said. "In fact, I wholeheartedly advocate for attending community college whenever the opportunity arises."

Paulina said she is grateful for the help and support she received from Citrus College faculty and staff. In particular, she highlighted the efforts of history instructor and former honors transfer program coordinator Brian Waddington.

"He kindly pushed me to consider applying to a few Ivy League institutions and offered to write me a letter of recommendation for those applications," Paulina



Paulina will attend the University of Cambridge in fall 2024.

said. "I had never thought of Yale as an option – not even in high school – but Professor Waddington saw that as a possibility for my future."

For Paulina, the initial transition from Citrus College to Yale University wasn't easy.

"It was marked by sleepless nights before paper deadlines and moments of self-doubt and imposter syndrome," she said. "In fact, when I initially set foot on Yale's campus, I immediately wished I was back at Citrus. I was incredibly nervous and apprehensive about what lay ahead of me."

But over the course of two-and-a-half years, Paulina began to feel more at home, exploring a variety of subjects and working at the Yale University Art Gallery, which holds approximately 300,000 objects and is the country's oldest university art museum. In addition, she spent a summer at the University of Michigan working alongside the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and a semester abroad at the University of Oxford. In 2023, she graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science.

As for her advice to current Citrus College students, she has plenty to share:

"One of the most valuable pieces of advice I can offer to current students, often dismissed as cliché, is to embrace your authentic self," she said. "Every decision I've made in my life, whether enrolling in classes, joining clubs or seizing opportunities, has been guided by genuine passions and interests."

"Remember: a person's educational beginnings do not determine their ultimate destination," Paulina added. "Trust in yourself and your abilities, for your journey is uniquely yours to navigate."

Citrus College Class of 2024 profile



DEGREES
1,758
Total degrees awarded



CERTIFICATES
1,899
Total certificates awarded



VETERANS
37
Student-veterans graduating



HONORS STUDENTS
504
Students graduating with an honors designation

AGE



Oldest graduate is
70



Youngest graduate is
18



Average age is
26

TOP MAJORS

1  Business Administration

2  Psychology

3  Pre-Allied Health

4  Administration of Justice/Criminal Justice

5  Sociology

Tenured faculty, retirees celebrated



Several of this year's retirees and one tenured faculty member attended last month's reception.

Receiving tenure and concluding a long career are two significant moments in academia. Every year, Citrus College hosts a special reception to honor those individuals who have reached these professional milestones.

This year, the campus community gathered on May 16 to congratulate three faculty members who received tenure and 11 faculty and staff members celebrating their retirement.

"The colleagues we recognize have poured their hearts into their work," said Superintendent/President Schulz. "With passion and dedication, they have made their marks on our campus. Tenure and retirement are the reward for a job well done."

The 2024 newly tenured faculty members include Martha Degladillo, Lisa Kolber and Matthew Parsons.

Retirees include Olivia Canales; Victoria Dominguez; Mark Gunderson; David Harris; Sarah Lanford; Robin McBurney; Juan Salinas; Robert Sammis, J.D.; Lisa Telesca; Ralph Tippins; and Cliff Wurst.

"I am grateful we have this opportunity to celebrate such an accomplished group of individuals and acknowledge their many contributions to our campus," Superintendent/President Schulz said. "My hope is that their futures – whether they involve long careers as faculty members or productive retirements – are filled with joy."

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