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BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

Crafton Hills College Formally Introduces its Elaine S. Rosen Music Room to the Community



As finishing touches are being made to Crafton Hills College's new Finkelstein Performing Arts Center, the college is honoring its supporters for their contributions to the building. Among them is Elaine S. Rosen, an area attorney whose love for the stage still shines as she approaches her eightieth year.

"I grew up playing piano and acting in school plays. You just have to follow your heart," said Rosen during a champagne toast and naming ceremony hosted by the college on Aug. 6.

Rosen has held many positions during her career. She has worked many years as an attorney, a judge pro tem, a law

professor at several area colleges, and a long-time member of the Inland Counties Legal Services governing board. Elaine also volunteered for many nonprofit organizations, including the Alliance for Children's Rights and Sexual Assault Services of San Bernardino. Finally, Elaine is a philanthropist. An endowment created in her name will support future Crafton performing arts students, many of whom will hone their skills inside the music room now bearing her name.

San Bernardino Community College Board Chair Dr. Nathan Gonzales commented on the significance of the contributions to this building project by referencing remarks by donor Clarence White at the dedication of

the Redlands Bowl in 1930. White pointed out that "No city lives by taxes alone." And Gonzales went on to comment that "in higher ed we can see that no college lives by taxes and student fees alone."

"Heading toward the future, our students will be more successful because people stepped forward, whether by voting to support bond programs like Measure CC or with their own treasure given directly to the college or its Foundation. It's the arts that will give this place its soul," he exclaimed.

Additional ceremony highlights included tours of the PAC, including the newly established Elaine S. Rosen Music Room, and remarks from Crafton Hills College President, Dr. Kevin Horan, Foundation President Amy Minjares and Rosen's brother, Les, who shared stories about their upbringing with little financial security but a rich foundation in the arts.

"The naming of the music room is a testament to her lifelong passion in connection to music and dance, and her endowment will directly support students in theater, music, and dance, who will thrive within these walls," said Les Rosen.

Photo: Elaine Rosen with family and friends.

Annual Roadrunner Rally Introduces New, Returning Students to Life at Crafton Hills College



For Portia Henderson, Crafton Hills College is more than just a campus and classrooms—it's a place to discover community.

"You feel like it's home," she said between greeting new students during the college's annual Roadrunner Rally on Aug. 12. "When I first started, I was always so nervous. But coming back to school 20 years later, no matter which department I worked with,

everyone was just super helpful. And that's one of the things that makes you feel like this is such a well put together type of community."

Held inside the Crafton Center, the annual event introduced new and returning students to campus life by highlighting many of the campus resources available to them. Students and their guests did not leave the rally empty-handed. Upon entrance,

guests were greeted with a friendly "hello" from faculty and staff and offered a complimentary Crafton T-shirt. Bucket hats, candy, sandwiches from Jersey Mike's, and program flyers were also there for the taking.

"We know that people who feel like they belong are much more likely to do better academically, to participate in programs and take advantage of resources available," said Crafton Director of Student Life Ericka Paddock. "The Roadrunner Rally is our way of being a warm hug and saying, 'We are so happy to have you. Welcome to the family.'"

CHC has a 50-plus year legacy of transforming lives through education with its mission to inspire, uplift and create opportunities. Currently, the Yucaipa-based institution offers a wide-range of degree and certification programs in areas like fire technology, emergency medical services, social services, and transfer to universities.

Photo: Women's Water Polo athletes at Roadrunner Rally.

CHC Respiratory Care Program Receives National Award for Outstanding Credentialing



CHC's Respiratory Care Program has received the Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC), representing several consecutive years of national recognition for student outcomes.

CHC is one of only about 16% of accredited

programs nationwide to receive this award for 2025. To receive the award, programs needed to have achieved a three-year average RRT credentialing success rate of 90% or above. Crafton Hills scored a 93%.

"This award means a lot because it reflects the dedication our students and faculty bring every single day," said Crafton Respiratory Care Program Director and Faculty Co-Chair Michael Sheahan. "I'm proud of the way our team supports students through one of the most challenging and rewarding programs in allied health."

The RRT credential is a requirement for advanced practice in the field and this award recognizes programs that help students go above what is required for the profession.

CHC graduates around 20-30 respiratory care students each year. Many students

accept job offers with local hospitals and healthcare centers across the region.

"What makes our program unique is the commitment to the program by the faculty, the level support from the college and district, and the relationship with the clinical community partners in the local area," Sheahan explained. "The work we do is student success-focused, even when we demand a lot from students when they are learning."

The faculty are engaged in professional development and regularly improve and revise the curriculum as an ongoing process as standards change to reflect progress in the field. "I think we're used to changing and evolving," Sheahan said. "It's what moves the program forward."

Photo: Respiratory Care students.

Scholarship Reception Celebrates Student Accomplishments and Foundation Donors



On Aug 14, in its Road Runner Café, Crafton Hills College celebrated the academic accomplishments of its high-performing students and expressed its appreciation to the donors who fund student scholarships.

The event began with a welcome from Michelle Riggs, Director of Institutional Advancement. Riggs confided that she holds this event in her heart, being a CHC scholarship recipient herself in 2007, when

she was a student at the college.

School president Dr. Kevin Horan then welcomed attendees and thanked donors for their financial support. He announced that CHC's Financial Aid Office distributed \$250,000 in student financial support.

Leslie Wessels, chair of the Foundation's Scholarship Committee, spoke of the event bringing together scholarship recipients and donors to appreciate the positive effects of the Foundation's financial support.

Table places had been arranged so that student scholarship recipients, donors, and Foundation board members could chat, while scholarship recipients' pictures and bios appeared on the screen above the speaker's podium and in program booklets at the tables.

Judy Cannon, CHC's Honors Program Coordinator, explained how Honors has grown from 40-50 students in 2016, when she began in her position, to 170 current participants. The program provides opportunities for exceptional students

to present their research projects at state level conferences. She also credited the Raymond Pryke Foundation for contributing \$270,000 to support the CHC Honors program.

The event reached its climax as scholarship recipient Jazmyn Garcia spoke about how much receiving scholarships meant to her. Garcia explained that she was an average student through high school and did not attend college right after she graduated. After a rough life that found her homeless for a time, she enrolled at CHC in 2023 and began a remarkably successful educational career as a biology major. She explained that the scholarships she was awarded not only provided much needed financial help but also gave her confidence in her abilities as she was elected as CHC's student member of the district's governing board.

The event concluded with Foundation President Amy Minjares thanking donors for the funding of scholarships and for their attendance.

Photo: Judy Cannon and Jazmyn Garcia.

Crafton Honors Graduate Selected for Prestigious Stanford Summer Research Cohort and UCLA Chemistry Research Lab for Fall 2025



Lyilah Peña, who graduated with honors from Crafton Hills College in the spring, was selected to participate in Stanford University's highly competitive six-week Medical School Preparation Program this summer. Lyilah was one of only 20 students chosen from more than 2,000 applicants.

During the program, she conducted research on health disparities, focusing on racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality among Black, Hispanic, American Indian, and Alaska Native women in the United States.

Peña credits the faculty and staff in the Honors Institute and MESA program as "very passionate educators that have motivated me to dream bigger. My experience at Crafton was one based on

community. I look forward to continuing my interests in the STEM field."

Peña's accomplishments are especially inspiring given the challenges she has faced. As the first in her family to attend college, she navigated her academic journey without the advantage of built-in guidance or encouragement.

On August 15, she met with MESA Director Krysten Audibert at UC Riverside during the Mentoring Summer Research Internship Program (MSRIP) Research Symposium. At the event, Peña shared that she has been accepted into a chemistry research lab at UCLA for fall 2025.

Photo: Lyilah Peña.

Crafton Hills College Recognized Statewide for Adult Education Innovation



CHC was recently named an Advancing California Adult Education Model Program by the California Adult Education Program (CAEP) for its Crafton Leadership Academy for Student Success (CLASS). It honors the CLASS summer bridge program as one of the top initiatives in the state for helping adult learners transition to higher education.

The initiative will be formally recognized at the 2025 CAEP Summit, where CLASS is one of just two programs statewide selected for distinction.

The program's success stems from the work of faculty and staff, including the Dean of Student Services & Student Development, Dr. Willie Blackmon and Crafton Transition Counselor with the California Adult Education Program Outreach and

Educational Partnerships, Herberth "Alex" Jaco, who reimagined the summer bridge model to better serve adult learners.

"This recognition is the hard work of our faculty and staff who care deeply about helping students succeed," said Jaco. "The CLASS program is transformative, enabling adult learners to believe in themselves, giving them the confidence, tools and support they need to thrive in college."

Designed to support adult learners as they transition to college, the five-week CLASS program offers a comprehensive and student-centered experience where participants enroll in COUN-100, a transferable, credit-bearing course focused on academic and personal development. Alongside classroom instruction, students attend university field trips, engage in social-emotional learning workshops,

receive supplies and daily meals and build connections with campus resources and peers. The program culminates in a celebration honoring students' achievements and new academic goals.

The CLASS program addresses common challenges faced by adult school students, such as limited familiarity with college systems and barriers to academic readiness, by integrating instruction, career planning and wraparound support services. Each student develops a Student Educational Plan, submits financial aid forms and is introduced to key campus programs.

"This program not only builds academic skills but also creates a sense of belonging and motivation for students who might otherwise struggle to find a path forward," Jaco said.

The program typically serves between 20 and 25 participants each year. While this current iteration is in its second year, the program builds on more than 15 years of experience from its predecessor, Adult Summer Bridge.

CLASS has demonstrated measurable outcomes in persistence and student engagement and is considered a scalable and sustainable model for colleges throughout California.

Photo: CHC Adult Education students visit Loma Linda University.

Free Legal Help at Crafton: "Lawyers in the Library"



In partnership with Inland County Legal Services, CHC will offer students access to free legal advice on a variety of issues that directly impact their lives and education, removing barriers and supporting student success beyond the classroom.

Through LITL, students can receive expert guidance on housing concerns such as eviction notices and tenant rights, public benefit programs like CalFresh, CalWORKs, SSI, and CAPI for immigrants,

as well as consumer issues including debt relief and car impoundments. Legal support for expungement services is also available.

Lawyers are available on Sep 18, Oct 16, and Nov 20 from 3 - 6 p.m. in a private study room in the library.

Photo: CHC library.