

CITRUS *view*

LATEST NEWS FROM CITRUS COLLEGE



Student achievement celebrated at annual ceremony

Citrus College recognized the 2025-2026 Service Leaders of the Year, Key of Knowledge recipients, Distinguished Student Award recipients, and Female and Male Athletes of the Year at this year's Achievement Awards ceremony in late May.

The academic success and campus contributions of more than 100 Citrus College students were recently celebrated during the 63rd annual Achievement Awards ceremony in the Haugh Performing Arts Center.

Family and friends joined Citrus College faculty and staff on May 21 to celebrate the accomplishments of these outstanding students.

"The Achievement Awards are one of our most meaningful traditions because they allow us to celebrate students who not only excel academically, but who also enrich the life of our campus in countless ways," said Dr. Greg Schulz, superintendent/president of Citrus College. "These incredible achievers represent dedication, resilience and a commitment to excellence, and they serve as an inspiration to the entire campus community."

Among the recognitions presented during the celebration was the prestigious Key of Knowledge award, which is the college's highest academic honor.

This year's recipients were Eva Acevedo, Jayson Chan, Nicolas Estey, Xiangru Ji, Xinyue Liang, Celeste Medina, Mikayla Muñoz, Benjamin Parker, Mary Rodelo and Gabriella Schwab.

Also awarded during the ceremony were the 2026 Service Leader of the year honors, which were presented to Mikayla Muñoz and Henoah Perez. The 2026 Female Athlete of the Year was softball player Alivia Martinez, while the two 2026 Male Athlete of the Year recipients were baseball player Cameron Casado and basketball player Leo Ricketts. Finally, Distinguished Student Awards were presented to 100 students whose high academic success in a specific program has placed them at the top of their class.

"To all of our honorees, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations," Superintendent/President Schulz said. "Your achievements reflect not only your individual talent and determination, but also the support of those who have encouraged you along the way. We are proud of you!"

Academic year ends with celebrations



Jonathan Johnson, student trustee for the 2024-2025 academic year, was a guest speaker at the Black Scholars Celebration on May 28.

Citrus College closed out the 2025-2026 academic year by honoring student success with a series of recognition events across campus. From academic achievement and leadership to perseverance and career preparation, each celebration highlighted the different paths students take to reach their goals.

Several ceremonies recognized the diverse experiences and communities that enrich the Citrus College campus. The Veterans Recognition Dinner on May 20

honored student-veterans for their academic achievements, while the Dream Resource Center Recognition Celebration on May 26 acknowledged the success of immigration-impacted students. The Black Scholars Celebration on May 28 recognized students for their accomplishments, and the third annual Lavender Celebration on June 1 highlighted the achievements of LGBTQIA+ students.

Additional events included the Mi Gente Scholars Celebration on May 14, the DSPS Recognition Ceremony on May 18, and the EOPS/CARE/NextUP and CalWORKS Recognition Ceremony on June 4.

"These recognitions celebrate our students' gifts and spotlight how their successes have contributed to our richly diverse community," said Superintendent/President Schulz.

In addition, Citrus College celebrated leadership and campus involvement. The ASCC/ICC End-of-Year Dinner on May 12 honored members of student government and campus clubs whose service and involvement helped strengthen campus life and foster a vibrant campus community.

Academic excellence and career achievement were recognized through several additional events. The Honors Transfer Program, Phi Theta Kappa and Alpha Gamma Sigma Spring Reception on June 2 celebrated the accomplishments of honors students, while the Transfer Recognition Ceremony on June 3 recognized students continuing their educational journeys at four-year colleges and universities. The Automotive Technology and Medium/Heavy-Duty Truck Technology Awards Ceremony on June 5 honored students completing degree and certificate programs, marking an important milestone in their transition from the classroom to the workforce.

"As we celebrate these accomplishments, we are reminded that student success is at the heart of everything we do," Superintendent/President Schulz said. "We are proud of our students and excited to see the impact they will make in the future."



The Honors Transfer Program, Phi Theta Kappa and Alpha Gamma Sigma Spring Reception on June 2.



The Lavender Celebration on June 1.



The Black Scholars Celebration on May 28.



The Dream Resource Center Recognition Celebration on May 26.

Mi Gente Scholars organizes Cinco de Mayo celebration

On May 5, the campus community came together to celebrate Cinco de Mayo with Spanish music, Mexican food, a Latino and Chicano book display courtesy of the Hayden Memorial Library, and even an opportunity for guests to screen print "Hecho En Citrus College" on a free T-shirt.

Organized by Mi Gente Scholars, the event also included multiple booths throughout the

Campus Mall where students could learn about campus and career resources.

Launched in fall 2025, Mi Gente Scholars seeks to provide engagement opportunities for Latinx students and staff, as well as cultural programming to enrich the campus.

"The Cinco de Mayo event was a collaborative effort across multiple departments, with valuable support

from instructional and counseling faculty," said Dr. Betzabel Martinez Bleech, director of student equity and success programs. "Events like these promote our HSI [Hispanic-Serving Institution] designation and foster a campus culture of celebration and community."

To learn more about the college's student equity programs, visit www.citruscollege.edu/seap.



State agency approves key real estate course offered by Citrus College

The California Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers (BREA) has renewed its approval of the Citrus College REAL 232 course, allowing the college to continue offering a required class for individuals seeking a real estate appraisal license and maintaining its status as one of a limited number of California community colleges authorized to provide the course.

The renewal of REAL 232 15-Hour National Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) was approved March 10, 2026, and remains valid through Dec. 31, 2027. The course introduces students to USPAP, which set the ethical and professional standards appraisers must follow when developing, reporting and reviewing appraisals in the United States.

REAL 232 helps students build a foundation in appraisal ethics, professional



Nick Paulson, real estate faculty member, teaches students the skills and knowledge needed to pursue careers in real estate.

standards and regulatory requirements while preparing students for careers in appraisal and valuation. It also reinforces the importance of public trust, credibility and professionalism in the real estate industry. By renewing its approval, BREA has affirmed that Citrus College coursework meets its rigorous standards.

"The real estate program continues to expand opportunities for students pursuing careers in appraisal and other real estate fields, while maintaining strong industry partnerships and aligning coursework with workforce needs," said Dr. Timothy Durfield, real

estate faculty member. "We remain committed to providing accessible, high-quality education that prepares students for success in this specialized and in-demand profession."

Baseball, softball teams shine in spring competition

Making history is nothing new for the Fighting Owls.

After an impressive fall semester, which saw multiple teams reach the postseason, Citrus College Athletics continued its remarkable streak of success in spring 2026, with the baseball and softball teams making the postseason and accomplishing feats that hadn't been achieved in more than a decade.

Led by first-year head coach Andy Smith, the baseball team made an appearance in the 3C2A Super Regionals and finished with a record of 33-13. The 2026 season marked the first time the Fighting Owls had won at least 30 games in a season since 2003.

"It is a blessing being here surrounded by such great players and people," Smith said following the season.

The historic season also included nine all-conference selections and a breakthrough performance from

first baseman Cam Casado, who was named Western State Conference South Position Player of the Year.

Additionally, as of June 1, eight players from the 2026 team have committed to play for NCAA Division I colleges and universities.

The softball team, under the direction of head coach Jessica Brown, had a stellar year after appearing in the 3C2A Southern California Regional and finishing the season with a 28-15 record. The team's 28 victories were their most since 2015.

With a win in the opening three-game series, the Fighting Owls earned their first 3C2A Southern California Regional victory in more than a decade.

Elsewhere, in men's golf, Andrew Gahshan competed in the 3C2A State Championships, held at SilverRock Resort in La Quinta in early May. Gahshan finished 36th overall with a total score of 156, shooting a 78 in both rounds.

All around, the sports teams at Citrus College finished the year on a high note.



College launches program to empower STEM majors

Starting this fall, students pursuing calculus-based STEM majors at Citrus College will have access to a new support initiative offering academic assistance, community-building opportunities and career exploration.

Funded through a grant from the California Community College Chancellor's Office, the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program will focus on serving first-generation college students who demonstrate financial need and plan to transfer to a four-year institution.

"We are excited to launch the MESA program and offer more support to STEM students," said Dr. My Chau, director of grants. "In collaboration with our existing programs, MESA will create meaningful opportunities for students to connect with peers, maximize college resources and provide valuable exposure to diverse career pathways."

Launched at a Bay Area high school in 1970, the program began with the goal of increasing the number of minority students graduating from undergraduate



MESA[®]

engineering programs. Since then, it has expanded to serve nearly 25,000 middle school, high school, community college and university students annually. Through a network of academic, career and personal support services, MESA will give Citrus College students the tools, resources and guidance needed to achieve transfer success and accomplish their educational goals.

MESA will be located in the STEM Center.

Citrus College Class of 2026 profile



DEGREES
1,910
Total degrees awarded



CERTIFICATES
2,151
Total certificates awarded



VETERANS
42
Student-veterans graduating



HONORS STUDENTS
658
Students graduating with an honors designation

AGE



Oldest graduate is
77



Youngest graduate is
17



Average age is
26

TOP MAJORS

1



Business Administration

2



Psychology

3



Child Development/Early Childhood Education

4



Pre-Allied Health

5



Administration of Justice/Criminal Justice

Celebrating 110 years of student success at commencement ceremony



More than 1,900 associate degrees will be awarded by Citrus College during this year's commencement ceremony.

As the spring semester comes to an end, the campus community is excited to celebrate the Class of 2026 at the 110th annual Citrus College commencement ceremony on Friday, June 12.

The event will honor hundreds of graduates and include remarks from Superintendent/President Schulz and other student and faculty leaders. In addition, the ceremony will recognize Mark Leavens and Jan Qualkenbush as recipients of the 2026 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Sarah Bosler, public services librarian, will also be celebrated as the 2026 Distinguished Faculty Award recipient. Since joining the campus community in 2010, Bosler has been a passionate advocate for students, faculty and staff.

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/commencement.

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