

# CITRUS *view*

LATEST NEWS FROM CITRUS COLLEGE



## Nursing program to quadruple enrollment capacity

The expansion of the Citrus College ADN program will allow more aspiring nurses to train for careers in health care.

Citrus College is expanding its Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program from 30 to 120 students per year, meeting student demand while addressing the region's shortage of skilled medical professionals.

For more than a year, the college has collaborated closely with the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) to increase the program's enrollment capacity. Last month, the BRN officially granted approval for the proposed growth, opening the door for more aspiring nurses to begin their careers.

"Increasing enrollment capacity in our ADN program reflects our commitment to responding to meeting workforce and community needs, as well as our continuing efforts to prepare students for meaningful careers," said Dr. Greg Schulz, superintendent/president of Citrus College. "Nursing is a profession that requires both skill and compassion, and this expansion ensures that many more Citrus

College students will have the knowledge and experience necessary to make a real difference in the lives of patients."

According to Dr. Salima Allahbachayo, director of health sciences at Citrus College, hundreds of students submit applications to the ADN program every year and, unfortunately, 90% of qualified applicants have been turned away.

"Expanding the program creates opportunities for more aspiring nurses to enter the field, while also helping our region by graduating a greater number of highly prepared professionals," she said.

The program will be accepting applications for the spring 2026 semester until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 17. In addition, prospective students are encouraged to attend an upcoming nursing application Zoom workshop on Friday, Oct. 10, at 9 a.m.



# Citrus College welcomes three new full-time faculty members

As the fall semester progresses, three new full-time faculty members are settling into their roles on campus. They bring fresh perspectives and a shared commitment to helping students reach their goals, joining a team of talented, experienced instructors who are dedicated to creating an engaging and supportive learning environment.



**Dr. Hamed Eskandarloo, Chemistry**

Prior to becoming a full-time instructor in the Citrus College Chemistry program, Dr. Eskandarloo served for three years as an adjunct instructor at Pierce College and held teaching positions at the University of La Verne and the Southern California University of Health Sciences. He previously served as a postdoctoral research associate at Cornell University and has authored more than 50 publications. Dr. Eskandarloo earned his bachelor's degree from Urmia University, his master's degree from Tabriz University and his doctorate from the University of Tehran. With this strong foundation, he is eager to make chemistry less intimidating for students.



**Matthew Reuteler, Automotive Technology**

Reuteler may be new to the full-time faculty ranks, but he's no stranger to Citrus College. In addition to being an alumnus and an adjunct faculty member in the automotive technology program for over two years, Reuteler has held several mechanic positions throughout the San Gabriel Valley. Most recently, he worked as both a shop foreman and a mechanic for Envision Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram in West Covina. Reuteler, who holds an associate degree in automotive technology from Citrus College, says he is eager to prepare students for the workforce.



**Aubrey Saverino, Theatre Arts**

For Saverino, joining Citrus College marks the next chapter in a career that blends artistry with teaching. An award-winning actor, she has performed Off-Broadway, in regional theaters across the country and on screen. She has also taught and directed at Fullerton College, Long Beach City College, Mt. SAC and within the Ventura Community College District. Saverino holds a bachelor's degree in theater from Occidental College and a master's degree in dramatic arts from the Old Globe and University of San Diego Shiley Graduate Theatre Program. She says the most exciting thing about her new role is the students.

## Welcoming new managers, supervisors

Over the past year, Citrus College has welcomed several new managers and supervisors to campus. Each brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to their role.



**Amberly Chamberlain**

Chamberlain joined the college as dean of visual and performing arts in July 2025. Previously, she served as a faculty member and Theatre Arts Department chair at Santa Ana College. In addition to teaching and directing student productions at Santa Ana College, Chamberlain was their faculty professional development coordinator and Academic Senate vice president. She also has extensive experience as a professional actress, director and singer/songwriter.



**Lisa McPherson**

McPherson became the executive director of strategic communications, marketing and public affairs in August 2025. Prior to this role, she served as the director of organizational advancement at Pathways of Hope and director of executive communications at CSU Fullerton. McPherson also possesses extensive experience in community college communications, having spent nine years at Fullerton College as director of campus communications.



**Andrew Smith**

Smith began serving as the baseball program coordinator (head coach) in August 2025. In this role, he coordinates the development of the baseball program and recruits prospective student-athletes. Smith also plans fundraising activities and manages field care and maintenance. Before joining the campus community, he was the head baseball coach at Chaffey College, where he led his team to a school-record 34 wins in 2025.



# Celebrating manager promotions

Citrus College also promoted two employees to new manager and supervisor roles, including:



**Maria Buffo** – Director of Veterans Success Center



**Bryun Sakaye** – Director of Enterprise Systems

## Student finds inspiration, explores culture during summer in Osaka

A chance encounter with a Citrus College Study Abroad flyer led to an unforgettable summer adventure for computer engineering major Dominick Mason. After attending an information session, applying for scholarships and meeting the program's requirements, he spent the month of July studying in Osaka, Japan.

"I always wanted to live somewhere that was different from what I had been used to, so that my worldview would have to change and growth as a person would be necessary," he said. "I can definitely say this trip was one of the best decisions I have made, and it will impact me for the rest of my life."

To help fund his travels, Dominick received a Gilman Scholarship from the U.S. Department of State. Established in 2001, the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship provides merit-based financial support to outstanding American undergraduates seeking to study abroad.

"I learned that I had been selected to receive the scholarship one morning during the spring 2025 semester. Something told me to check my email and, when I did, it was an unforgettable moment," he said. "With the current federal budget situation, I was not sure if the scholarship was still possible. It was a huge relief and eased my financial burden, allowing me to focus on my studies while making my study abroad dreams a reality."

Thanks to the scholarship, Dominick fully immersed himself in Osaka. The experience deepened his appreciation for Japanese culture, as well as everyday convenience and public transportation. From relaxing at an onsen and enjoying late-night karaoke to trying unique foods like raw chicken, yakitori and authentic



**Dominick Mason** visited Osaka, Japan, as part of the Citrus College Study Abroad program.

ramen, he embraced the city's vibrant lifestyle.

"I expected to learn in the classroom, but what stood out most was how much I learned outside of it through everyday interactions, navigating the city and engaging with the culture," he said. "I was surprised by how welcoming and patient people were, especially when I practiced my Japanese."

While the language barrier in fast-paced situations presented challenges, Dominick overcame them with preparation, mobile apps and a willingness to connect.

"My listening and speaking skills improved the most," he said.

"Hearing the language every day

pushed me to use what I knew, whether ordering food, asking for directions or chatting with classmates. By the end of the program, I felt more confident holding basic conversations."

Building on the confidence and skills he gained abroad, Dominick will continue pursuing his associate degree from Citrus College. He plans to graduate in 2027, becoming the first person in his family to complete a college degree. He also aims to transfer to a four-year university, with UCLA and Cal Poly Pomona among his top choices.

"Studying in Osaka reinforced my career goal of blending technology with culture. I saw how Japan values both tradition and innovation, and that inspired me to think about how I can bring the same balance into my work in computer engineering," he said. "I am actually considering moving from the United States after school now, even if it's only for a little while."



# Fall 2025: The Citrus College Experience

Citrus College kicked off the fall semester with a renewed focus on fostering belonging and growth for every student, every day.

This commitment was evident even before classes began, when the campus greeted its new students during Welcome Day 2025. Organized by school relations and outreach, the event helped more than 520 incoming students navigate available services and become familiar with the campus.

"It's surreal that I'm on campus, but I feel very welcome," said Deanna Sanchez, a recent graduate of Northview High School in Covina. "Everyone has been very nice. They have all greeted me with a smile, and I feel very good about being here."

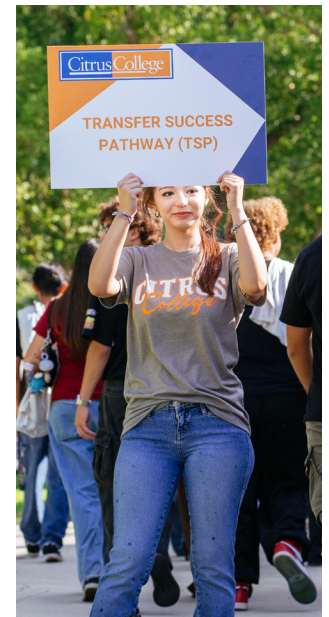
This year, students have even more reason to feel at ease on campus with the opening of the new Welcome Center. Located in the lobby of the Student Services

Building, the center serves as a central hub where students can access a variety of resources.

Another addition to the campus is the Coffee Bar. Offering hot breakfast, sandwiches, pastries, muffins, Starbucks coffee, teas, espresso creations and healthy grab 'n' go options, it has quickly become a favorite spot for students and employees to start their day or take a quick break between classes.

Between Welcome Day, the new Welcome Center and the Coffee Bar, Citrus College has made it easier than ever for students to feel supported and comfortable on campus.

"I feel excited to be at Citrus College," said Kenneth Martinez, a recent graduate of Azusa High School. "I was a little nervous at first, but now I'm fine!"





# Inspiring Class of 2025 finishes year strong

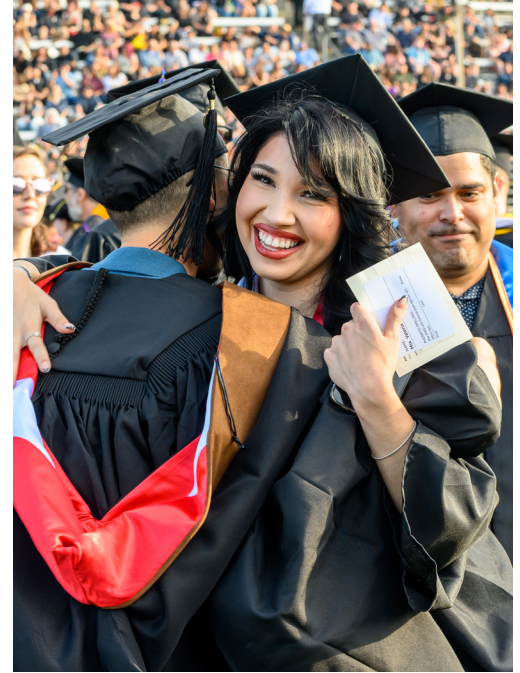
Citrus College held its 109th annual commencement ceremony on June 13, 2025, at the Citrus Stadium. In front of family, friends and supporters, the college honored a driven and outstanding group of scholars.

In total, 1,705 degrees were awarded to the Class of 2025. Top programs included business administration, psychology, pre-allied health, administration of justice/criminal justice and child development/early childhood education.

The college also awarded 2,036 total certificates. Top programs included cosmetology and barbering, automotive technology, real estate, criminal justice, and child development/early childhood education.

The youngest graduate was 18, while the oldest graduate was 72. Thirty-eight veterans received degrees, and 644 students graduated with honors.

**Congratulations, Class of 2025!**





# Homecoming returns with 110th anniversary celebration

The campus community is gearing up for our annual Homecoming celebration on Saturday, Oct. 25.

In addition to featuring live music by student musicians, free food and games, this year's festivities will commemorate the college's 110th anniversary.

The celebration will begin at 4:30 p.m. at the west end of the Citrus Stadium. Attendees are encouraged to stay for the Fighting Owls football game against Moorpark College at 6 p.m.

Free admission to the football game will be given to individuals who arrive early for Homecoming.

For more information about the Citrus Alumni & Friends Association and future activities planned for the campus community, visit [www.citruscollege.edu/foundation/alumni](http://www.citruscollege.edu/foundation/alumni).



## College for Kids prepares students for future success



College for Kids will return in summer 2026.

Over the summer, dozens of local middle school students participated in a new and exciting program designed to prepare them for college success.

Led by Ivon McCraven, director of continuing education at Citrus College, College for Kids welcomed students from across the San Gabriel Valley. In small groups of six to 12, students took on-campus courses in creative writing, reading and study skills, math review, and self-defense.

"The goal is to prepare students for the upcoming school year by introducing them to advanced-level concepts taught by college or high school instructors," McCraven said.

In addition to boosting the confidence of participating students, College for Kids helps students develop a love of learning.

"Both students and their families shared positive feedback about the program," she said. "Many appreciated the opportunity to learn new concepts in a fun, creative and social environment, which is very different from traditional textbook learning."

McCraven said the program, which will return in summer 2026, left an impact on all those who attended.

"The instructors brought energy and innovation to the classroom, making advanced material accessible and exciting for middle schoolers experiencing a college-style setting for the first time," she said.

For more information on the college's continuing and noncredit education programs, including College for Kids, visit [www.citruscollege.edu/ce](http://www.citruscollege.edu/ce).

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