

Chancellor's Report and Update

Board of Trustees Meeting
June 14, 2023



Our Graduates



Pinning Ceremony

Members of the **Registered Nurse Class of 2023** received their graduation pins during a ceremony at the Performing Arts Center on **Tuesday, May 30th**.

The pins were awarded to 54 students, who also lit candles on stage in tribute to Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.



54th Commencement

College of the Canyons honored its 2023 graduating class during the **54th Annual Commencement Celebration**, which was split into morning and evening ceremonies in the Honor Grove on Friday, June 2nd.

- The morning ceremony honored graduates in Allied Health, Business, Math, Sciences, Engineering, and Public Safety; the evening ceremony honored graduates in Applied Technology, Humanities, Kinesiology, Social & Behavioral Sciences, and Visual & Performing Arts.
- More than **3,400** degrees were conferred to the **2,206** students who petitioned for graduation.
- **881** graduates earned two or more degrees.



Facing Your Fears

For 25 years, one of the biggest hurdles standing between **Daniel Andrade** and a college degree was his math anxiety.

- But with the help of the College of the Canyons **Academic Accommodation Center (AAC)** and the **Veterans Affairs** program, Andrade was able to complete the remaining two math classes he needed to earn an associate degree in real estate.
- Now with an associate degree to his name, Andrade is looking forward to perhaps one day teaching at COC as a real estate instructor.
- Andre is grateful for the wonderful support system we provide here at COC.



Student Fights for Dreams

On the first day of the spring 2023 semester, Laura Llamas was virtually attending her civil litigation class via Zoom along with her classmates. Unbeknownst to all, Llamas was physically in an emergency room in Utah.

- Llamas, who was diagnosed with stage three triple negative breast cancer in May 2022, did not want to miss her first day despite falling ill—not when she was one semester shy from graduating.
- With the help of her family and the support of COC counselors and instructors, Llamas was able to fulfill her lifelong dream on June 2nd with an associate degree in **Paralegal Studies**.



The Power of Small Steps

Nine years ago, **Cinthia Zelaya** immigrated to the U.S. from Honduras with the goal to continue her education in her newly adopted country. Unable to speak English and unfamiliar with the American education system, Zelaya would have to start from square one.

- *“I felt frustrated,”* recalled Zelaya, who already had a college degree from a Honduran university. *“But I realized something: nobody is going to push you if you don’t push yourself.”*
- Since enrolling at College of the Canyons in 2017, Zelaya earned her GE degree, learned English through the college’s noncredit program, earned five certificates, and transitioned to the college’s credit program.
- On June 2nd, those small steps lead Zelaya across the COC graduation stage, where she received her associate degree in **Human Resources Management**.



Our COC Team and Students Stand Out!



Edison Awards Scholarships



Twenty-one College of the Canyons **Fire Technology** students have received **\$1,000** scholarships from *Edison International*.

- Award recipients had to have a cumulative GPA of **2.7 or higher**, be enrolled in the fire technology program, and respond to four essay questions about their fire service career goals.
- The scholarships were awarded through a grant from Edison International to support development of fire personnel.

In Perfect Harmony

The Chamber Singers presented a concert in the University Center lobby on Wednesday, May 24th.

Performing under the direction of Lori Marie Rios, it is one of four choral programs offered by the College of the Canyons Music Department.



'cul-de-sac' Unveiled



Volume 16 of "*cul-de-sac*," the student-produced arts and literary magazine, was unveiled during a "Sweet 16" release party in the Performing Arts Center lobby on Thursday, May 25th.

It was a standing-room-only crowd for the evening event, which was the first time in three years that it could be held in person.

COC Students Complete Pre-Apprenticeship Program

COC recently graduated 5 *Pre-Apprentices* from the **Construction Technologies Program**.

- These graduates completed the **500 Hours** required to earn **3 Certificates** from the *Career Connections arm of the Southwest Mountain States Regional Council of Carpenters*.
- The Pre-Apprenticeship at COC prepares these graduates to get into the Southwest Mountain States Regional Council of Carpenters Registered Apprenticeship Program.



Retirees Honored

Retirees were honored during a luncheon celebration at the University Center on **Wednesday, May 24th**.

- Colleagues, family members, and friends applauded the dedicated service of **Michael Dermody** (35 years), **Jim Schrage** (26 years), and **Ron Dreiling** (23 years), all pictured above with Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook. Also retiring in June are **Sheldon Helfing** (29 years), **Tammy Decker** (24 years), **Lisa Wallace** (23 years), and **Jon Pileggi** (11 years).
- Happy Retirement!



Welcome to COC!



New employees participated in a breakfast orientation hosted by Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook at the University Center on Wednesday, May 31. Welcome to College of the Canyons!



UPCOMING
EVENTS

10/12/2022

Recognition Event

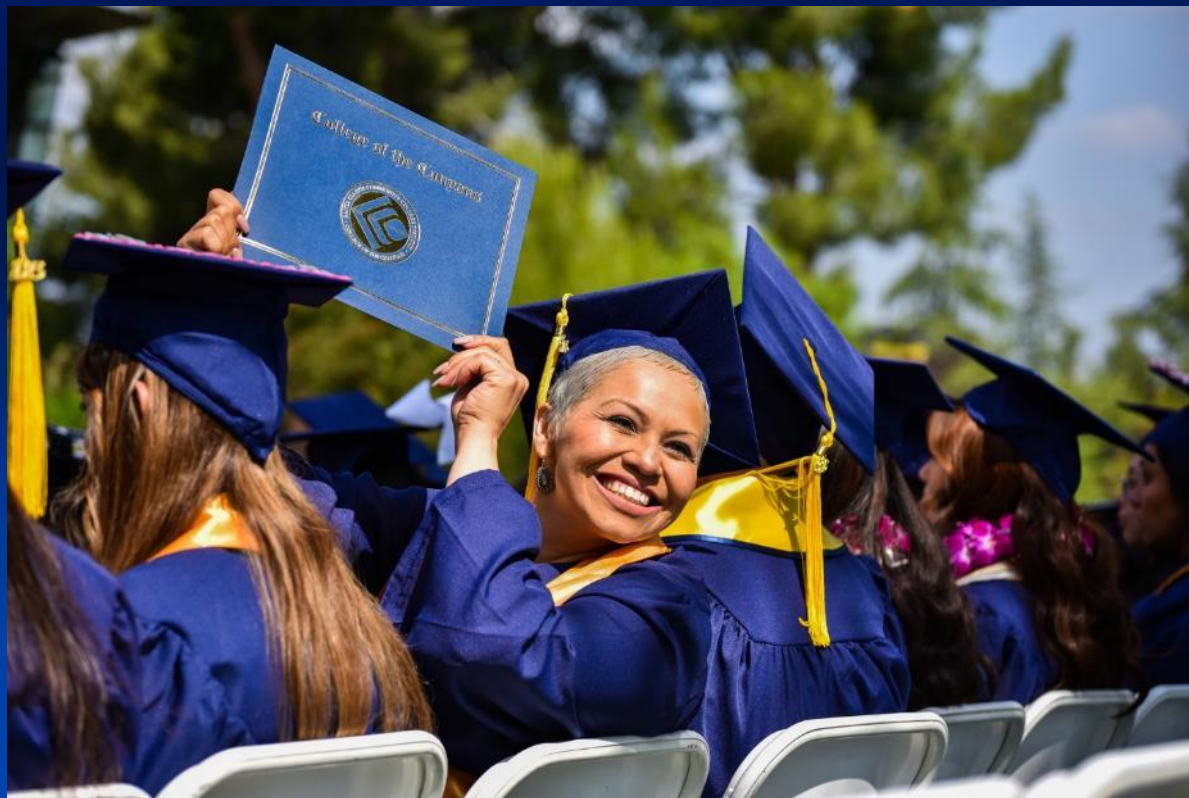


The School of Personal & Professional Learning will present career skills certificates to nearly 40 students participating in the "Yes I Can, Unity Through Music & Education" program during a recognition event at the Performing Arts Center on Saturday, June 24. The event is scheduled 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Information: (661) 362-3304 or freeclasses@canyons.edu.

State of the State



The *Valley Industry Association* presents the **State of the State** at the University Center on **Friday, June 30th**. **Sen. Scott Wilk** and **Assembly Member Pilar Schiavo** will speak and answer questions. The event is scheduled for 11:30 a.m.



**Have a Great
Summer!**