



### CCC HOLDS 8TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT ON MAY 19. PROUD OF OUR "CRUSH" GRADUATES!



Nearly 400 graduates participated in the 8th Annual Commencement Ceremony on May 19 at Clovis Community College. It was a memorable event for everyone. Thank you to Trustee Deborah Ikeda for participating at this special event. About 1,131 students are eligible for degree/certificate conferral

which are being processed by Admissions and Records. In many cases, graduating students earn more than one degree so CCC will award approximately 2,511 degrees and certificates for the 2022-23 (Summer 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023) academic year. [View the photos](#) from the May 19 commencement along with other program ceremonies including Leon S. Peters Honors Program, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Athletics, Early Childhood Development, TRIO/EOPS/ CalWORKS, Art/Music Open House, and the Spring Concert. Watch the Commencement Ceremony on [CCC's You Tube Channel](#).



#### 2023 CCC graduates include:

- 49 Summa Cum Laude (4.0 GPA)
- 367 Magna Cum Laude (3.50-3.99 GPA)
- 373 Cum Laude (3.00-3.49 GPA)
- 71 Leon S. Peters Honors Program
- 20 Veteran Students

### CRISTIAN CASTRO-OLIVA EARNS THE 2023 PRESIDENT'S MEDAL OF DISTINCTION



The President's Medal is given to a student who has demonstrated leadership at the college, given back to the college or community, and still maintained high academic achievement during their time at Clovis Community College. Cristian Castro-Oliva is a first-generation college student who is leading by example in pursuing higher education. His parents moved to California from Peru at a young age. Later in life, when

Cristian was a freshman, they had to move back to Peru for a while. They eventually moved back to California. This experience ignited a deep connection to his roots and gave him a sense of purpose that continues to inspire him today. He hopes to be a pillar of guidance for his community. He currently works as a tutor, has been the Vice President of Finance for the ASG, he also worked in the Financial Aid Office, and mentors students in the same or similar major. He also participates in the EOPS and TRIO programs. Cristian is kind, passionate and treats everyone with respect. His natural curiosity to learn has led him to majoring in computer science.

Cristian is a true example of how a community college can change lives as he started with trigonometry at Clovis and finished with differential equations and three semesters of calculus-based physics. Cristian has excelled in the rigorous discipline of computer science and has maintained a 3.9 GPA. He is graduating from Clovis Community College

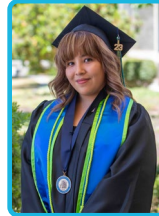
with multiple associate degrees in math, physics, economics, liberal arts & science, natural science and computer science, along with certificates in CSUGE and IGETC. He has multiple transfer offers including Cal Poly and UC Irvine. Congratulations Cristian, we are very proud of you!

### DEAN'S MEDAL OF DISTINCTION

The Dean's Medal of Distinction is given to one graduating student from each division who has distinguished themselves by their perseverance, the quality of their work, and their positive impact on the campus.

[Read the FULL bios.](#)

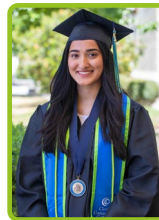
#### Ana Paola Penalzoza Becerril: Student Services - Counseling, Admissions & Records, Health Services.



Ana was born in Mexico and moved to California at the age of 6. Not only is she thankful for this opportunity but is also thankful for the great support system of her family who have always inspired her and told her to follow her dreams. Ana is also extremely grateful to her mother, who decided to leave everything behind for a better future for her family. Without her mother's sacrifice, she wouldn't be standing here. Ana also shared utmost

gratefulness for the Counseling team and EOPS program at Clovis Community College, but gives special thanks to Angelita Zaragoza, who has guided her along this journey and shown her what it looks like to follow your dreams and love what you do. It may be difficult to see progress at times, but during moments like this, Ana realizes she is one step closer to her dreams.

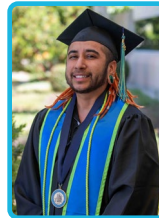
#### Navdeep Kaur: Student Services - Student Success, Equity & Outreach.



Navdeep was born and raised in the small town of Caruthers, just outside of Fresno. This is where her passion for public service first began. During her two years at Clovis Community College, Navdeep double majored in Political Science and Administration of Justice to work towards a career in law. On campus, Navdeep served as Vice President of the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society, promoting civic engagement and community service. She

also began working on campus as a Student Ambassador, where she had the opportunity to build personal connections with both students and faculty. Navdeep was able to help prospective students in the community apply for college and help them successfully begin their coursework.

#### Shane Palomo: Humanities & Athletics.



Shane has done stellar work both in and out of the classroom, double majoring in Business and Communication. There is nothing that deters him from reaching his goals, no matter the obstacle. He accomplishes this with a most positive presence and a huge smile on his face. On campus he has been an active member of the Communication Club, LGBTQ+ Club, Delta Alpha Pi (DSPS Honors club), and the TRIO program. He is a fiercely proud

first-generation student. During his time at Clovis, Shane has gone through tremendous life changes.



## David Jansen De Vera: Social Science.



David has a heart and passion that few possess. David began his Clovis Community College journey three years ago with a goal of working with young children. His personal goal of working with children is what drove him to overcome several challenges along the way. David has shown his resilience and commitment to the field of Early Childhood Development despite overcoming learning challenges. David was able to utilize the resources

of Clovis Community College including our DSP&S services to provide accommodations and instructional resources that he then utilized in his own development of how he wants to work with children and provide them with that same support.

## Grigor Mkrtchyan: Physical & Computational Sciences and Distance Education.



Grigor immigrated to the United States from Armenia when he was 12 years old and spoke almost no English. After completing high school in Glendale, California, and earning eight awards for high honors in math and sciences courses, he moved to Fresno and enrolled at Clovis Community College. He is a physics and chemistry double major and has a 3.8 GPA. His involvement in four research projects for his classes and as

extracurricular projects is impressive. He presented these at our annual STEM Research Symposium on May 12th and plans on presenting a research poster at the American Chemical Society National Meeting in San Francisco in August.

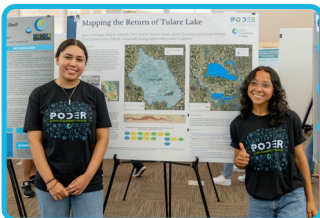
## Melissa Leeann Scheidt: Natural & Health Sciences.



Melissa "Kodie" Scheidt's educational journey began with completing and obtaining certifications including Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Electrocardiogram (EKG) 6 & 12 lead, mental health and first aid, and CPR/AED. Additionally, Kodie acquired her Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts & Science with a focus on Natural Science, which she completed in May 2017. Kodie also received the "Dr. Tom Crow Distinguished

Student Scholarship" in 2022. Kodie reports, "The Occupational Therapy Program (OTA) program has been the most challenging yet the most rewarding moment in her life."

## STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATHEMATICS) STUDENTS SHINE AT THE 2ND ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM ON MAY 12.



STEM students were excited to display their research projects at the 2nd Annual STEM Research Symposium. Our amazing faculty teach through research to empower students to investigate the world around them, put classroom theory into real-world practice, and diversify the scientific

workforce. This program is UNIQUE to the Central Valley and is made possible with a partnership with [Johns Hopkins School of Medicine](#) and [Carnegie Institution](#). Karla Kirkegaard Ph.D, from Stanford School of Medicine served as the keynote speaker. [View the photos.](#)



## "COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS" WITH PRESIDENT DR. KIM E. ARMSTRONG

- President Armstrong and Team CCC were honored to participate at these wonderful events:
- CCC Black Student Success Week **April 24 – 28.**
- CCC Sexual Assault Awareness Month presentation on **April 25.**
- CCC Asian American Heritage Festival on **April 26.**
- Clovis Rodeo on **April 26 – 30.**
- CCC Asian American Pacific Islander Discussion Panel on **April 27.**
- City of Fresno Council Meeting for Proclamation for #CCMonth on **April 27.**
- 34th Court Schools PTA Luncheon on **May 3.**
- CCC Team met with Clovis Adult School on **May 3.**
- Clovis Veterans Memorial District "Salute to Patriots" Dinner on **May 3.**
- CCC Spring Extravaganza on **May 4.**
- CCC Speech Night on **May 5.**
- Family Community Church Prayer Breakfast on **May 6.**
- Central California Food Bank "Empty Bowls" Banquet on **May 11.**
- City of Clovis Mayor's Breakfast on **May 18.**
- Guest speaker at the Fresno County Women's Chamber of Commerce on **May 23.**
- City of Fresno "State of the City" on **May 24.**
- Soroptomist International of Clovis meeting on **May 24.**
- Fresno City Council Meeting on **May 25.**
- CCC Team met with Clovis East School on **May 25.**
- Attend the California State Track Meet as Guest of the Clovis Unified Superintendent on **May 27-28.**
- The Campaign for College Opportunities Award Ceremony on **May 31** to accept CCC's "2023 Champion for Excelling in Equitable Course Placement" award.



[CCC Events Calendar](#)