Community College League of California Distinguished Alumni Awardees

Allan Hancock College

1988 - Robert Mange - Principal, Folsom Junior High School

2002 - Owen W. Siler - Admiral, United States Coast Guard (Retired)

2010 - Kay Ryan - Poet Laureate, Consultant in Poetry (emeritus)

American River College

2016 - Diane Bryant - Executive Vice President/General Manager, Data Center Group, Intel Corporation

Bakersfield College

1964 - Walter W. Stiern - Senator, State of California

1969 - David E. Smith - Medical Director, Haight-Ashbury Medical Clinic

1971 - Ruth Love Holloway - Director, Right to Read Program, US Office of Education

1973 - Jack C. Smith - Columnist, Los Angeles Times

2005 - Beto Gonzalez - Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education

Barstow College

2000 - Gloria Romero - Assembly Majority Whip 49th District

2010 - Joe Baca - Congressman, United States Congress

Butte College

2000 - Kenneth Grossman - President Sierra Nevada Brewing

Cañada College

1994 - Anna G. Eschoo - Member of Congress, 14th Congressional District

Cerritos College

1985 - JoJo Starbuck - Olympic and Professional Figure Skater

2015 - Peter Espinoza - Judge, Los Angeles County Superior Court

2021 - Eric Draper - Photographer/Author, Eric Draper Photography

Chabot College

1992 - Tom Hanks - Actor

1996 - Peggy Hora - Judge, Municipal Court

2003 - Marcy Feit - President & CEO, ValleyCare Health Systems

Chaffey College

1972 - William A. Walk, Jr. - Attorney and Civic Leader

1985 - Howard Allen - Chairman of the Board, Southern California Edison

1995 - Hebert Hafif - Attorney at Law

2006 - Beverly Cleary - Author

Citrus College

1980 - Gordon L. Hough - Chair of the Board, Pacific Telephone & Telegraph

1990 - Ward Munson - President (Retired), Munson Sporting Goods

2014 - Ivan Misner - Founder and Chairman, BNI

City College of San Francisco

1969 - George J. Maslach - Dean of Engineering, UC Berkeley

1973 - Andrew S. Adams - Director, Educational & Rehabilitation Services, Department of Veteran's Benefits, US Veterans Administration

1977 - W. Michael Blumenthal - Secretary of the Treasury, United States

1984 - Lee Meriwether - Actress

1988 - Burl A. Toler - Referee, National Football League

1989 - Allen Broussard - California Supreme Court Justice

Coastline Community College

1999 - Tony Aguilar - Resource Manager Legislative & Local Government Affairs, Southern California Edison

College of Alameda

1984 - Ronald V. Dellums - Representative, 8th District, US Congress (Oakland City College)

College of Marin

1972 - Karl O. Drexel - Superintendent, Contra Costa CCD

1979 - Robin M. Williams - Comedian and actor 1997 - Grace A. Hughes - President, Marin Airporter

2000 - Glen E. Robinson - Retired US Marshall

2006 - J. Dietrich Stroeh - Vice President and Secretary of CSW/Stuber-Stroeh Engineering Group, Inc.

College of San Mateo

- 1964 Raymond J. Daba Attorney and VP, State Board of Education
- 1968 Eleanore D. Nettle President, California School Boards Association
- 1970 Mery Griffin Host, Late Night Show, CBS Television
- 1975 Arlen Gregorio Senator, 10th District, State of California
- 1976 Edward V. Roberts Director, Dept of Rehabilitation, State of California
- 1987 Paul B. Jensen Coroner, San Mateo County
- 1995 Rosemary Pfeiffer Judge, Superior Court, County of San Mateo
- 2005 Claire Mack Television/Radio Broadcasting and Community Advocate (Ret.)

College of the Sequoias

- 1980 Glen Craig Commissioner, California Highway Patrol
- 1981 Gerald C. Hayward Chancellor, California Community College
- 1983 Louis Carter Superintendent of Banking, State of California

Compton College

- 1965 Carley V. Porter Assemblyman, State of California
- 1975 Pete Rozelle Commissioner, National Football League
- 1977 Ralph C. Dills Senator, 28th District, California
- 1978 William Hanna Co-founder, Hanna-Barbera Production
- 1979 Billie G. Mills Superior Court Judge, Los Angeles County
- 1982 G. Tom Thompson Los Angeles Municipal Court Judge

Contra Costa College

- 1991 George Miller Member of Congress, 7th Congressional District
- 1986 John Marquez Labor Commissioner, California State Department of Industrial Relations
- 1989 Virginia D. Greer Clinical Psychologist
- 2003 Maria Alegria Executive Director, Faith Works!

Cosumnes River College

- 1994 Willie C. Johnson MD, Kaiser Hospital
- 2014 Scott Syphax President & CEO, Nehemiah Corporation of America

Crafton Hills College

2022 - Ann T. Martgan – EMS Operations Manager, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Cuesta College

- 1989 R. Morgan Burkett President and CEO, Sterling Hotels Corporation
- 1993 Louis Owens, PhD Professor of Literature, UC Santa Cruz
- 2008 Khatchik H. "Katcho" Achadjian San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors and Business Owner
- 2011 William H. Swanson Chairman and CEO, Raytheon Company

Cypress College

1983 - Geri Jewell - Actress

De Anza College

1993 - Robert Handa - Reporter/Producer, KPIX-Television

Diablo Valley College

- 1974 Slava J. Veder Pulitzer Prize Winner, Feature Photography
- 2001 Steven Vogt Designer of high-resolution spectrograph
- 2009 Timothy P. White Chancellor, University of California, Riverside

East Los Angeles College

- 1979 Esteban Torres Assistant to the President of the United States
- 1980 Julian Nava Ambassador to Mexico
- 1986 Nathan Chroman Attorney
- 1992 Edward James Olmos Actor/Director/Producer & Community Activist
- 2002 Rosario Marin United States Treasurer
- 2014 David C. Lizarraga President & CEO, TELACU Millennium
- 2018 George L. Pla President & CEO, Cordoba Corporation

El Camino College

- 1974 Carol Neblett Star, New York City Opera
- 1978 George Foster Professional Baseball Player
- 1980 Mark L. Hicks Quadriplegic artist (deceased)
- 2002 George Nakano California State Assembly Member, 53rd Assembly District
- 2003 Cliff Meidl National Spokesperson, Construction Safety Council and Electrical Safety Foundation
- 2012 Cinna Toy-Wohlmuth Doctor of Medicine, Loma Linda University and White Memorial Center
- 2020 William A. Young Actor/Director, Young Center for Academic and Cultural Enrichment

Foothill College

1994 - Wayne Wang - Filmmaker/Producer

Fresno City College

- 1993 Angela R. Cisneros VP Board of Directors, Fndn Center for Phenomenological Research
- 2002 Cruz M. Bustamante Lieutenant Governor of the State of California
- 2005 Peter G. Mehas Fresno County Superintendent of Schools
- 2007 Gary Soto Author
- 2010 Christine Johnson McPhail Managing Partner, The McPhail Group

Fullerton College

- 1966 Arthur G. Coons President Emeritus, Occidental College
- 1969 Thomas Berkley Lawyer, Publisher, Race Relations Consultant
- 1973 Eldon L. Rodieck Faculty & Administrator, Emeritus, Fullerton College
- 1974 Jessamyn West McPherson Author
- 1978 Cruz Reynoso Justice, Third District Court of Appeal
- 1991 David R. Pierce President, AACJC (now AACC)

Gavilan College

2010 - Luis Alejo - Mayor of Watsonville/Monterey Superior Court Staff Attorney

Glendale Community College

- 1999 Larry & Ralph Cimmarusti Owners, Cimm's Inc.
- 2001 Raymond Edwards CEO and Chairman of the Board (retired) of Glendale Federal Bank
- 2017 Dave Greenbaum Owner/President, David C. Greenbaum Co., Glendale Community College

Golden West College

- 1991 Brenda Premo Department of Rehabilitation, State of California
- 1994 Martin Yan Master Chef

Grossmont College

- 1984 Lucille Moore Politician and civic leader
- 2012 Brad Daluiso Financial Planning Specialist Morgan Stanly Smith Barney

Hartnell College

- 1972 Firmin A. Gryp President, Northern California Savings & Loan Association
- 1976 March Fong Eu Secretary of State, State of California
- 1981 James R. Fassett Medical doctor
- 1991 Eugene Dong MD/JD, Stanford University
- 2013 Dustin Lance Black Screenwriter, Director, Producer
- 2020 Luz Garcia Physician's Assistant, Gonzalez Medical Center

Imperial Valley College

- 1981 Douglas X. Patino Director, Employment Development Department, State of California
- 2005 Amali Tower Founder, Bridge 2 Peace
- 2008 Robertta J. Burns Chief Executive Officer, Imperial County (Retired)

Irvine Valley College

2023 - Advaith Thampi - Stakeholder and Engagement Liaison, Department of Veterans Affairs; Board of Veterans Appeals

Long Beach City College

- 1966 Arjay Miller President, Ford Motor Company
- 1992 Melvin Salveson President, Universal Transaction System
- 1995 Paul Rodriguez Comedian, Actor, Education Advocate
- 1997 Beverly O'Neill Mayor, City of Long Beach
- 2004 Pat Keller McCormick Pat McCormick Educational Foundation
- 2007 The Molina Family Molina Health Care
- 2011 Dolores J. "Jenni" Rivera Singer known as "La Diva de la Banda," Jenni Rivera Enterprises
- 2012 Ernest Mitchell, Jr. US Fire Administrator Department of Homeland Security
- 2015 Peter James Gravett Secretary (Ret.), California Department of Veterans Affairs
- 2023 Dr. Blas Villalobos Chief Executive Officer, Centerstone Military Services

Los Angeles City College

- 1964 R. C. Fuller Vice President, Bendix Corporation
- 1966 Vaino H. Spencer Judge
- 1968 Rudi Gernreich Fashion Designer
- 1971 Raymond M. Hill Chief Engineer & Gen Mgr, LA City Fire Dept
- 1973 Georgia W. Mellon Trustee, Chaffey CCD
- 1975 Charles H. Arias Administrator, KNBC Los Angeles
- 1984 True Boardman Radio, film and TV star
- 1987 Cindy Williams Actress
- 1992 Lourdes G. Baird United States Federal Judge
- 1998 Mimi Leder Film Director
- 1999 Bernard C. Parks Police Chief, LA Police Department
- 2006 Diane Watson U.S. Congresswoman

Los Angeles Harbor College

- 1999 Benjamin J. Cayetano Governor, State of Hawaii
- 2002 Juanita Millender-McDonald United States Congresswoman, 37th California Congressional District
- 2008 Douglas Barry Los Angeles Fire Chief

Los Angeles Pierce College

1998 - Denny Crum - Basketball Coach, University of Louisville

2004 - Robert A. Wharton - Chief Research Officer, Idaho State University

Los Angeles Trade-Tech College

1970 - J. William Orozco - President, Board of Trustees, Los Angeles CCD

1972 - Gloria Williams - Admin. Secy to the Hon. Sam Yorty, Mayor of Los Angeles

1978 - Sue Wong - American Fashion Designer

Los Angeles Valley College

2004 - Sean Astin - Actor, Director, Family Literacy Advocate

Los Medanos College

1995 - Fidel Huerta - MD, Sequoia Health Foundation

Los Rios CCD

2022 - Jessie Ryan – Executive VP, Campaign for College Opportunity

Merritt College

1977 - Joe Morgan - Professional Baseball Player

MiraCosta College

1965 - Gene Law - Associate Director, Television Series: The King Family

1985 - Paul Carlin - Postmaster General, United States Post Office

Modesto Junior College

1965 - Gerald Kennedy - Leader, Methodist Church Los Angeles

1971 - James H. Corson - Ast Exec Secy, Assoc of California School Administrators

1974 - John J. McFall - Representative, 15th District, United States Congress

1986 - George Lucas - Filmmaker and Producer, Lucasfilms

1992 - Gary Condit - Member of Congress, 15th Congressional District

1996 - John Petersen - Exec. Director, Accrediting Commission for Community & Junior Colleges

1997 - Manuel "Manny" P. Meza - Videographer, KCRA Television

Monterey Peninsula College

1982 - Bert P. Cutino - Owner, Cutino's Sardine Factory

2020 - George Ow - CEO, Ow Family Properties

2023 - Jimmy Panetta - U.S. Representative, 19th Congressional District

MoorPark College

2024 - Mike Madrid - Principal, GrassrootsLab and author

Mt San Antonio College

- 1979 Joan Tewkesbury Dancer, choreographer, screenwriter and direct
- 1983 Jay Rodriguez- Vice President of Corporate Information, NBC
- 1991 Fred Claire Executive Vice President, Los Angeles Dodgers
- 1994 Bruce Fa Brizio CEO, Sunshine Makers/Simple Green
- 2009 Don Morris Retired Educator, Athlete, Navy Reservist, Public Servant

Mt San Jacinto College

- 1988 Mildred Wagoner Kronfly Director, Flight Systems Deisgn and Performance, Rockwell International
- 2015 Jose Ochoa Alcohol and Drug Counselor, Addiction Counseling & Treatment Services

Napa Valley College

1975 - Dick Vermeil - Head Football Coach, UCLA

Ohlone College

1975 - Gloria Villasana - Assistant Vice President, Fremont Bank

Orange Coast College

- 1990 Albert C. Wong President, AMKLY Systems Inc.
- 1992 James Tait Goodrich MD/Director, Neurological Surgery, Pediatrics Montefiore Medical Center

Oxnard College

2021 - Terry Pendleton - Baseball Operations, Atlanta Braves

Palomar College

- 1971 Ronald T. Kenney Editor, Escondido Daily Times-Advocate
- 1988 Tencha Avila-Friedenberg Communications Consultant
- 2008 Anthony Brandenburg Judge, California Superior Court

Pasadena City College

- 1965 Warren M. Dorn Chairman, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
- 1967 William B. Langsdorf President, CSU Fullerton
- 1969 Jackie Robinson Baseball Player
- 1971 William D. McElroy Director, National Science Foundation
- 1987 Jaime Escalante High School Math Instructor

- 1991 Joyce Luther Kennard California Supreme Court Justice
- 1996 Octavia E. Butler Writer
- 2001 R. Bruce Merrifield Recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry
- 2004 Adriana Ocampo Planetary Scientist, NASA, JPL
- 2010 David Rust Senior Cameraman, CNN
- 2013 Ruthe Catolico Ashley Teacher, DeAnza High School Law Academy

Reedley College

- 1966 Hideo Sasaki Landscape Architect, Sasaki, Dawson, Demay Association, Inc.
- 1970 Warner E. Newby Brigadier General, US Air Force
- 1989 Daniel D. Villanueva General Manager, KMEX-TV, Univision (King's River College)
- 2000 Richard A. Johanson Chairman of the Board, Johanson Transportation Services
- 2013 Sonny Vaccaro Sports Personality/Independent Agent

Riverside Community College

- 1966 Eliot J. Swan President, Federal Reserve Bank
- 1967 James Mercereau Division Manager, Ford Motor Company
- 1969 Rex Brandt Artist
- 1970 Jesse T. Hill Director of Athletics, University of Southern California
- 1976 Anita J. Mackey Board of Trustees, Loma Linda University
- 1979 Rupert Costo President, Indian Historical Society
- 1986 Allen E. Hill Rear Admiral (Ret.), US Navy
- 1998 Ernest Z. Robles Founder, National Hispanic Scholarship Fund
- 1999 Judith A. Neiburger Community Activist
- 2021 Keynasia (Daniels) Buffong CEO, & Founder, National Black Grads

Sacramento City College

- 1967 Albert S. Rodda Senator, State of California
- 1976 Elwood J. Keema Chancellor Emeritus, Los Rios CCD
- 1979 John Moss Representative, US Congress
- 1983 Glen L. Ryland President, CEO & Chr of the Board, Frontier Airlines
- 1983 Jay Rodriguez Vice President of Corporate Information, NBC
- 1986 Elton Rule President (former), American Broadcasting Company
- 1988 George K. Kambara Opthamologist
- 1988 May Tanaka Kambara RN
- 1990 Margarita Colmenares Lead Engineer, Chevron Corporation

1993 - Gordon D. Schaber - Professor of Law, McGeorge School of Law and University of Pacific

2011 - The Honorable Tani Cantil-Sakauye - Chief Justice, Supreme Court of California

Saddleback College

2006 - Lynn-Holly Johnson - Actor

San Bernardino Valley College

- 1964 Charles Young Vice Chancellor, UCLA
- 1972 Charles E. Young Chancellor, UCLA
- 1993 Jack H. Brown President/CEO, Stater Bros Market
- 1997 Bella Lewitzky Founder & Artistic Director, Lewitzky Dance Company
- 2000 Judith Valles Mayor, City of San Bernardino
- 2007 Dorothy Ella Inghram Retired Educator
- 2012 Eloise Gomez Reyes Attorney, Administrative & Civil Litigation, Law Offices of Eloise Gomez Reyes

San Diego City College

- 1964 Predrag Mitrovich Vice President, San Diego First National Bank
- 2016 Barry Cordero Senior Program Manager, Operations Excellence, Medtronic

San Diego Miramar College

- 2006 Jerry Sanders Mayor, City of San Diego
- 2013 Adolfo Gonzales Chief, Bureau of Investigation, San Diego County District Attorney

San Joaquin Delta College

- 1970 Robert T. Monagan Speaker of the Assembly, State of California
- 1971 Skipper Yee Businessman
- 1973 Irvine H. Sprague Administrative Ast, Majority Whip's Office, US House of Representatives
- 1974 Roderick W. Beaton President and CEO, United Press International
- 1976 Eddie Lebaron Partner, Jones, Jones, Bell, LeBaron, Close & Brown
- 1978 Pearl West Director, California Youth Authority
- 1980 Janet Leigh Actress
- 1984 Dave Gerber Independent TV and Film Producer
- 1987 Robert Bersie Vice President for Development, CSU Long Beach
- 1996 Webster Slaughter Professional Football Player
- 2009 Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa Assoc. Professor of Neurological Surgery and Oncology, Johns Hopkins

San Jose City College

1998 - Joe Fabris - West Region Marketing Manager, Microsoft

2002 - Amy Tan - Noted Author

Santa Ana College

- 1964 James A. Smith Regional Sales Manager, Eastman Kodak Company
- 1967 Stephen K. Tamura Judge
- 1969 James B. Utt Representative, 35th District, US Congress
- 1977 Isabelle Rellstab Vice President Student Affairs & Asst Supt (Ret.), Santa Ana College
- 1982 Robert H. Weitbrecht VP, Research & Development, Applied Communications Corporation (Rancho Santiago College)
- 2005 Sinan H. Kanatsiz Chairman and CEO, K-COMM
- 2008 David Valentin Commander of Human Resources, Santa Ana Police Department
- 2009 Thanh Minh Nguyen Pediatric Endocrinologist/Physician
- 2011 Dr. James Huong Nguyen Medical Doctor, University of Arizona Medical Center
- 2015 Irasema Salcido Founder/School Administrator (Ret.), Cesar Chavez Public Charter High School for Public Policy
- 2013 Engin Artemel President, Artemel, Inc.
- 2019 Nora Mendez Executive Director, Orange County Community Housing Corporation

Santa Barbara City College

2002 - Angela M. Belcher - Nanotechnology Research

Santa Monica College

2004 - Arnold Schwarzenegger - Governor of California

Santa Rosa Junior College

- 1969 Jerome R. Waldie Representative, 14th District, US Congress
- 2014 Jonny Gomes Outfielder, Boston Red Sox/Oakland Athletics
- 2016 Gaye LeBaron Columnist, The Press Democrat
- 2024 Mike McGuire President Pro Tempore, California State Senate

Santiago Canyon College

2006 - Steven Frank Ambriz - City of Orange Councilman and Planning Manager, Orange County Health Care Agency, Office of Quality Management

Sierra College

- 1982 Peggy Buckley Director of Associate Degree Nursing Program, Bakersfield College
- 2012 Cataleya Carlson Captain, C-130 Aircraft Commander (Pilot) US Air Force

Solano Community College

1981 - Ernest J. Gaines - Author

1998 - John L. Burris - Attorney at Law

1978 - Daniel E. Boarwright - Assemblyman, 10th District, State of California

Southwestern Community College

1993 - Maria Williams - Clinical Psychologist, South Bay Guidance Center

2022 - Joseph Straczynski - Writer, Self-Employed

Ventura College

1983 - Shirley Verrett - Metropolitan Opera Star

West Valley College

1986 - Everett "Eddie" Souza - Mayor (Former), City of Santa Clara

2003 - Emmy Moore Minister - President of MEMM Consulting and Communications, Director for Northern California PGA

2007 - Kathleen King - Saratoga City Council Member and Chair, Silicon Valley

Yuba College

1977 - Harry D. Wiser - Exec. Director, Accrediting Commission for Community & Junior Colleges

1981 - Ethel Winant - Vice President, Mini-Series and Novels, NBC Television

2024 - Dr. Marlin "Skip" Davies - Retired Educator and Community Leader