



2014-2015 Retirees

With deep gratitude for their years of service, we recognize our retiring faculty and staff who have supported thousands of students and have helped make our campus community strong and spirited. Our warmest thanks and best wishes to each and every one of these colleagues.

Shirley Ashburn — Nursing

Shirley Ashburn retired from the Nursing Department in December 2014 after 32 years here at Cypress College teaching pediatric, medical and geriatric nursing. Shirley earned both her BSN and MSN at Ohio State University. She relocated to California as an established content expert in pediatric nursing and as a respected pediatric textbook author. Shirley is beloved by nursing students and faculty for her cheerful, gregarious manner, soft-spoken humor, and “eagle-eyed” editing skills. In retirement, Shirley is enjoying her new role as a grandmother.

Paul Baca — Maintenance & Operations

Paul Baca started at Cypress College as a Duplication Clerk 30 years ago on March 26, 1984. He then moved on to the Operations Department, where he held various positions over his career: as a Custodian, Floor Crew Worker, stand-in Custodial Supervisor, and finally as the Custodial Department’s Equipment Operator. Paul’s dedication to service and commitment to Cypress College was exemplary. He is enjoying retirement. Congratulations, Paul!

Robert Burson — Maintenance & Operations

Bob Burson started at Cypress College on October 25, 1977 as a Custodian in Food Services. He then moved on to serve in our Grounds Department as a Groundskeeper and filled in on occasion as our Athletic Field Maintenance Worker. Retirement for Bob allows him to be one with nature; to be outdoors and develop several of his passions — fishing, geology and mineralogy. Congratulations, Bob!

Brett Harrington — Campus Safety

Brett began his career at Cypress College with the Campus Safety Department on March 14, 1990. In January of 2015, he retired after 25 years of service with the District. Congratulations, Brett! Thank you for your many years of dedication.

Hong Chi — ESL

Dr. Hong Chi was hired as an ESL instructor in Fall 1992. In his time at the College, he created a successful series of ESL grammar courses that have become very popular among students. His courses have driven student success in core ESL and English classes. Hong also created the Chinese program. Colleagues appreciated his quiet resourcefulness and English grammar expertise. Congratulations, Hong!

Virginia Derakhshanian — L/LRC

Virginia Derakhshanian worked for the North Orange County Community College District for over 40 years — starting in the District on July 1, 1974! After graduating from Magnolia High School, she started working for SCE and eventually became an instructional assistant in their ESL lab. In 1988, she moved to Cypress as a laboratory technician in the Language Arts Learning Center. Here at Cypress she started to build her life — she met and married her husband, had a beautiful daughter and built her reputation for excellence. She has had many compliments that mention she is friendly, positive and always making an effect. One person summed it up perfectly when they called her a “campus angel.” She was reclassified into the Learning Center Coordinator in 2001, and helped to build the current Learning Resource Center that so many students use today. For the 2005-2006 academic year she was Classified Employee of the Year. She has given her time freely to many committees on campus, including CSEA, and Kindercaminata.

Michele Dugan — EOPS

Michele Dugan worked in Cypress College’s Extended Opportunity Programs and Services office from April 1996 until her retirement in August 2014. She was a valuable resource to the many students she served during that time. Michele is enjoying retirement with family. Thank you for your years of service and congratulations, Michele!

Regina Ford — Admissions and Records

For 40 years, Regina Ford served the students of Cypress College. In 1976, she was hired as a classified employee in the Admissions and Records Office. By the time she retired at the end of 2014, she was leading that service area as the College’s Registrar. Whatever the capacity in which she was employed, Regina focused on meeting the needs of students — from applications, to admissions, to enrolling, re-enrolling, applying for a degree or transfer, graduating, transcripts, and much more. Congratulations, Regina!

Cathy Franklin — Reading

Cathy Franklin was hired as an English/Reading instructor in Fall 2005 after 13 years as an adjunct instructor. Among her accomplishments was service on the Curriculum Committee and program development for all five Language Arts departments. Students loved Cathy Franklin, as did her colleagues — her sunny disposition enhanced camaraderie. Cathy also deserves credit for her contributions to the Department's developmental English sequence, one of the top programs in California. Congratulations, Cathy!

Donna Gibson — Maintenance & Operations

Donna Gibson joined Cypress College as a temporary custodian and was hired as a permanent Custodian on January 27, 1983. Donna has been a Custodian, a Sanitation Custodian, and filled-in as a Custodial Supervisor on many occasions. In retirement, Donna will enjoy spending time with her grandchildren. Congratulations, Donna and best wishes!

Carol Green — Dental Hygiene

Carol Green taught in the Department of Dental Hygiene for over 20 years and built the program into a nationally known and respected one. Under her leadership the program was in the top 10 of over 300 Dental Hygiene programs in the United States. 100% of her students passed both their National and the State Board Examinations each year. Carol's philosophy was to always do what was best for students. In recognition of her committed community service, Carol was recipient of the Charger Award. In retirement, she plans to spend more time with her family and dogs as well as travel. Congratulations, Carol!

Pat Humpres — President's Office

Pat is a proud graduate of Norwalk High School and began her employment with the District in 1998. She moved from the District to Cypress College and served in an exemplary manner as Executive Administrative Assistant to three Presidents. Pat was the model of professionalism and ability throughout her time at the District and at the College. She will be greatly missed. Congratulations, Pat!

Michael Johnson — MAD

Thirty-two years ago, Michael Johnson began teaching Drawing, Painting, Illustration, 2D Design, and Ad Design at Cypress College. In his words, "teaching, guiding students on the usage of technology, design, visual communication, drawing and painting have been so much more than a mere job. It has truly been my life." Michael laid the foundation for the computer graphics program and he literally built the lab one computer at a time. Today, we have a robust Media Arts Design lab to serve our students because of Michael's dedication and perseverance. All those who have worked with Michael praise him as a uniquely talented fine artist and teacher. He is going to be sorely missed by everyone in the Fine Arts Division. Congratulations, Michael!

Kathy Llanos — ESL

Kathy Llanos was hired as an ESL instructor in the fall of 1990; this year marks her 25th year of service. In just her second semester at Cypress, she took over the leadership of a newly launched ESL program. Kathy deserves great credit for steering the program to become one of the most successful in California. Students appreciated her work in the classroom, and colleagues enjoyed her sense of humor; more importantly, they appreciate the great legacy of effective teamwork that she has left to them. Congratulations, Kathy!

Nancy Miller — Career Planning

Nancy Miller started at Cypress College as a model student — she played softball, volleyball and basketball, was an active member of Associated Students, and worked as an hourly. In 1993, she joined the College in a full-time capacity. She has worked in the Career Center, the Instruction Office and the President's Office. Throughout the years, she has exhibited a students-first attitude and an ability to connect with people. Congratulations, Nancy!

Carol O'Brien — Campus Safety

Carol O'Brien joined the Cypress College Campus Safety Department in February of 2000. She retired after 15 years of service with the District on February 17, 2015. Congratulations, Carol! Thank you for your many years of dedication.

Antonio Fernando Oliveira — Foreign Language

Fernando Oliveira was hired as a Spanish instructor in the Fall of 1997 and retired in Spring 2014. Along with his contributions to the Foreign Language Department, he was a steady participant in the Diversity Committee. He also created and developed the Portuguese program, a unique offering that attracted students from across Orange County. Fernando was known for his great wit and sense of fun, and was much loved by students and colleagues alike. Congratulations, Fernando!