

The Best of the Best

2015–2022 Milestones



**CERRITOS
COLLEGE**

★ 2022 ★

BEST

**COMMUNITY
COLLEGES**



Major Milestones

2015

- **#2 for Mexican-American/Latino student transfers** to CSUs and the top 10 schools to transfer Latinos to UCs
- **Top #10** Best Nursing Programs in the Western United States (The only two-year college to earn a top spot)
- New Child Development Center opens
- **Golden Opportunity** - Culinary Arts students assist with the Golden Globe Awards dinner
- **World Record** - New Product Development students help set the Guinness World Record for the most machines simultaneously 3D printing in a single location. Students print hundreds of prosthetic hands during Print-a-thon event.
- **#1** - California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) recognized four Falcons: Dr. Dan Smith, Dr. Ni Bueno, Dr. Carrie Edwards, and Brian Cable
- **2,129** degrees and certificates conferred at the 58th Commencement Ceremony
- Happy 60th anniversary Cerritos College
- **Winner!** Phi Theta Kappa PTK Distinguished Chapter Officer Team award
- Dental Assisting Professor Donna Wedell honored with the 2015 Hazel O. Torres Excellence in Education Award by the California Association of Dental Assisting Teachers
- Child Development Teacher Diana Melina Echeverria named Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)'s Teacher of the Year
- Educational Technology Professor Vykki Morgan received a 2015 Educator Wall of Fame award from the University of California, Irvine
- K-16 Bridge Program to increase college and career readiness among the District's K-12 students



2016



- **Golden Opportunity** - Culinary Arts students assist with the Golden Globe Awards dinner for two years in a row
- Board approved Cerritos College Sustainability Plan
- The Automotive Import Technician Training Program (ITTP) joined the Audi Education Partnership Program to train skilled technicians for Audi dealerships
- **We Promise!** Cerritos Complete launched to help students earn college degrees faster with free tuition for the first year
- Student Samantha Dawson named a 2016 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Gold Scholar
- The *Talon Marks* student newspaper team won the Journalism Association of Community Colleges awards
- 2,496 degrees and certificates awarded, making the largest graduating class in Cerritos College history
- Four students were awarded the U.S. Department of State's prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad
- Student Alejandra Carranza received the renowned Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship
- Employee Raquel Lizarraga named as a 40 Under 40 honoree by the American Association for Women in Community Colleges
- Conducted a large-scale active shooter response training in collaboration with the Campus Police Department, the L.A. County Sheriff's Department's Norwalk Station, L.A. County Fire Department, and local first-responder agencies
- **Ranked among the top 100 two-year colleges with the highest alumni salaries in the United States** (source: PayScale.com)
- The Cerritos College chapter of Psi Beta received a Chapter Excellence Award from the American Psychological Association
- Graphic Art and Computer Graphics Professor Bonnie Barrett won the Graphic Design USA (GDUSA) American Inhouse Design Award
- **Received \$1.6 million to strengthen workforce programs from the Chancellor's Office**
- Educational Technology Professor Dr. Cynthia Alexander named the 2016 Teacher of the Year by the California Association for Postsecondary Educators of the Disabled
- The Business Administration Department's Open Education Resources (OER) project received the 2016 Online Learning Consortium's Digital Learning Innovation Award
- Assistant Professor of History Dr. John Haas received Southern California Mediation Association's Education Foundation Directors Award for his global peacebuilding effort



2017



- FAR Bazaar transformed the old 30,000-square-foot abandoned mid-century fine arts building into an art space
- Selected for the California Space Grant Consortium's Competitive Opportunity for Community College Partnerships Program
- Opened the new Mathematics/Computer Information Sciences (CIS) Building and Fine Arts Complex
- Talon Marks won the California College Media Association awards
- Culinary Arts students prepared meals for the 2017 Golden Globe Awards dinner
- Three employees selected for the 2016 John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award by the League for Innovation in Community Colleges
- Psychology Professor Dr. Kimberley Duff received the Western Psychological Association's 2017 Outstanding Teaching Award
- Student Maricela Ramos awarded the U.S. Department of State's prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad
- **3,314 degrees and certificates awarded, making the Class of 2017 the largest graduating class in the 60-year-old campus' history**
- The Advanced Transportation Technology and Energy Center (ATTE) received \$1 million from the California Energy Commission to develop clean fuel training programs for high schools in underserved communities
- Launched the new Chicano Studies Program
- Opened a new classroom location at the Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School
- Ranked 14th among the top 100 schools with the highest Hispanic enrollment in the United States
- Psi Beta received the Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award
- The Board of Trustees passed a resolution to express its commitment to uphold several proposed improvements to changes to the corner Lot located at 166th Street and Studebaker Road
- Hosted the inaugural Economic Development Summit to improve the economic development and social services infrastructure across the region
- Recipient of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors 2017 Energy and Sustainability Award for the Science Building retro-commissioning project



2018

- The largest graduating class in campus history for the third consecutive year. 3,500 degrees and certificates conferred
- Cerritos Complete won the 2018 Examples of Excelencia Award; selected as a top 10 national finalist for the 2018 Bellwether Award
- Trustee Marisa Perez received the 2018 Student Equity Award from Campaign for College Opportunity and the National Organization of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO)
- Amazon partnership brought a Cloud Computing Certificate program to campus
- LA Weekly hailed the Cerritos College Art Gallery as one of 15 best college art galleries in Southern California
- Twenty-six (26) CTE programs earned Strong Workforce Stars recognition: 2 Gold, 6 Silver, and 18 Bronze Stars
- Cerritos Complete selected for Promises That Count Community of Practice grant
- First California community college to join Interstate Passport Network, making student transfers to out-of-state universities seamless
- More than 50 students participated in the 2018 Taiwan Experience Education Program
- The Cerritos College Foundation launched its new Alumni Association
- WPMD radio station named America's Best Student Public Affairs Program
- Student Stephanie Arriaga won second place in the Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students
- The forensics team won awards at the International Forensic Association Tournament in Montreal, Canada
- Men's soccer team earned its first national championship
- Falcon wrestling won the third straight SoCal team dual title
- Student Graciela Espejo selected as a 2018 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar
- Men's and women's tennis teams won a rare team dual state championship
- Alumna Diana A. Yanez named a 2018 recipient of the Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans
- Dental Hygiene earned a 100% passage rate on the 2018 National Board exam
- Dean of Disabled Student Programs and Services Dr. Lucinda Aborn honored with the R.J. Scuderi Exemplary Service Award from the California Association for Postsecondary Education and Disability
- Business Administration Professor Dr. Bob Livingston named the Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year 2018 by California Business Education Association
- Jannet Malig named as the state's Sector Navigator for Advanced Transportation and Logistics
- Three employees selected for the 2018 John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award by the League for Innovation in Community Colleges



2019

- A new public art collection established to be spread through the campus
- The award-winning Cerritos Complete expanded to offer two years of free tuition
- WPMD's Un Poquito Latino named America's Best Foreign Language College Radio Program by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System
- Student Darneanna Fallins selected to the 2019 Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic Team
- Phase I of the New Health & Wellness Complex opened as the campus' first Green-Certified building
- 5,016 degrees and certificates awarded to shatter the College's graduation record for the fourth consecutive year
- The award-winning Teacher TRAC program received a legacy gift of more than \$1 million to support aspiring teachers
- New partnership with National University brought affordable bachelor's degrees in criminal justice, nursing, and paralegal
- Donors Bhupesh and Kumud Parikh pledged a \$150K gift toward student scholarships
- Former faculty member Rick Sterling's legacy added \$90,000 to support the Math program
- Selected as one of six community colleges piloting the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars Program
- Alumnus late John B. Smith, Jr. left a \$2.3 million gift from his estate to support the Woodworking program
- WPMD named America's Best Community College Radio Station



2020

- Opens The Village, California's first community college housing project to tackle student homelessness
- Celebrated the fifth consecutive largest graduating class on record with 5,078 certificates and degrees presented
- Teacher TRAC, in partnership with the Columbia Memorial Space Center, receives \$280K in grants from the National Science Foundation to prepare underserved college students to become STEM educators
- Teacher TRAC celebrates 20 years of training more than 800 future educators
- Financial Aid awards \$2,751,900 as a first disbursement from the Cares Act to 7,329 students
- Trustee Marisa Perez elected First Vice President of the California Community College Trustees Board
- Hosted L.A. Regional Food Bank food drive twice a month; operated on drive-thru after stay-home orders, serving 20,000 households
- Dr. Fierro re-elected to the Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges Board
- Assistant Professor of Psychology Dr. Jaclyn Ronquillo honored with National Teaching Excellence Award
- Delivered over 100 laptops and webcams to students to continue their education online through the pandemic
- The second Economic Development Summit focused on the Gateway region's workforce development opportunities and education-industry collaborations
- President Dr. Fierro selected for the inaugural Aspen Institute's New Presidents Fellowship
- Served as an official Voter Center for the 2020 election
- Hosted a successful accreditation team visit; the team commended the College for creating and encouraging innovation leading to institutional excellence.
- New fully online degree and certificate programs in Business Administration, Commercial Music, Cloud Computing, Cyber Security, Engineering Design Technology, Network/System Administration, and Visual and Cultural Studies through Cerritos College Online
- Former Falcon baseball player and coach George Horton inducted into the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame





- 2,000 new high school graduates joined the College's award-winning Promise Program Cerritos Complete in the fall semester; the program has benefited 6,852 students since its inception in 2015
- 2020-21 Convocation unmasked Service Excellence Superheroes and introduced dialogue about data-informed service and student equity efforts
- Celebrated 65 years of student success and academic excellence through a series of anniversary events
- The Foundation provided nearly \$100,000 to help Cerritos College students facing urgent needs amid COVID-19
- Financial Aid disbursed \$6 million CARES Act grants to 12,000 students
- Phase II of the Health & Wellness Complex opened its doors
- Psi Beta received a national Chapter Excellence Award from the American Psychological Association
- Psychology student Roshni Choksi selected as the McGraw-Hill Western Regional Student of the Year
- Psi Beta Co-Advisor and Psychology Professor Dr. Kimberley Duff chosen as the McGraw-Hill Western Regional Advisor of the Year
- Ranked eighth among the top 100 schools with the highest Hispanic enrollment in the United States
- **Honored as a 2020 Equity Champion of Higher Education** by The Campaign for College Opportunity for leading California community colleges in awarding Associate Degrees for Transfer to Black students



2021



- The Early College Program paved the way for faster, low-cost degree and career attainment for high school students
- Teacher TRAC received a U.S. Department of Education grant to create The Community Partnerships for Teachers Pipeline to advance educator diversity
- Ranked ninth among the nation's top 25 community colleges for most Hispanic enrollment
- Court to College (C2C) received a \$225,000 grant from the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services to enhance its offerings
- **Advanced Transportation and Logistics Center received a \$1.5 Million Clean Transportation Grant to prepare a skilled clean energy workforce**
- 400 employees and students received COVID vaccines on campus
- Women's soccer player Sydney Carr named the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Player of the Year
- **Received a \$1M gift commitment to establish the first community college endowed Jain scholar**
- Student Haya Chehada received the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship
- Named the best value accounting associate degree school in California by Business Degree Central
- Celebrated the Class of 2021 with drive-thru and online commencement ceremonies, **awarding 4,639 degrees and certificates**
- Photography Professor Christina Fernández among the first winners of \$5 million Latinx Artist Fellowship program
- Received Cal-HOSA grant to launch a mental and behavioral health pathway for high school students
- Ranked seventh among the top 100 community colleges with the highest Latinx enrollment in the U.S.
- **Honored as a 2021 Equity Champion for awarding transfer degrees to Latinx students by The Campaign for College Opportunity**
- Unveiled a new modern logo that reflects the College's identity as diverse, innovative, and inspiring
- Falcon football team won the 2021 Western State Bowl
- Adopted a student-led Break Free From Plastic resolution, making the campus the first community college in California to adopt a policy to abandon the use of plastic products
- Men's soccer team won the South Coast Conference Tournament championship; Head Coach Benny Artiaga was named the Southern California Coach of the Year



2022

- **Ranked ninth among the best 10 community colleges in California** (Stacker.com)
- **Ranked 11th among the nation's best community colleges for 2022** (College Consensus)
- **Culinary Arts ranked sixth** among the 2022 best culinary arts colleges in the U.S. (Universities.com)
- **Pharmacy Technology ranked second** among the best pharmacy technician schools in California (Pharmacy Technician Guide)
- **Cosmetology ranked second** among the 2022 best cosmetology schools in California (Best-Universities.net)
- Team Falcons selected to advance to phase II of NASA's 2022 Micro-g NEXt challenge for the second consecutive year; only community college in the nation selected
- Celebrated the **grand opening of the Performing Arts Center**
- Opened a free campus walk-in COVID-19 testing site
- The Early College program welcomed St. Pius X - St. Matthias Academy (PMA) to build a four-year dual enrollment pathway
- **Opened the Falcon's Nest, a centralized network of resources that supports meeting the basic needs of students**
- WPMD Radio's *Tucumcari* won Intercollegiate Broadcasting System's Best Drama Award
- ASCC student leaders brought Metro GoPass to campus
- The speech and debate team won Phi Rho Pi National Speech Championship
- Celebrated the Class of 2022 and 2020 with in-person ceremonies after a two-year hiatus; **presented a record-breaking 5,167 degrees and certificates**
- Samantha Islas and Richere Leduc (softball) named AllState; Samantha named South Coast Conference Pitcher of the Year
- Kaya Glynn (women's swimming) named All-American in the 200-yard butterfly
- Ranked seventh among the top 100 community colleges with the highest Latinx enrollment in the U.S.
- Foundation received a \$20,000 grant from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) to advance diversity in journalism
- Hosted the second NASA on Campus as part of the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) program
- Received a Prop 98 allocation of \$16 million to support the construction of the College's new Student Services and Administration Center
- Received \$600,000 in state funding to support the College's student transit program GoPass





SOAR Magazine

Take a look at the many accomplishments our students and faculty have achieved and join us as we SOAR higher in education.



Our Vision

Driven by the pursuit of unparalleled student success, we provide access to innovative learning opportunities that promote the power of education