



Cerritos College
Building Futures Through Learning



News Release

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Cerritos College Promise Program Cerritos Complete Honored at State Assembly for National Recognition

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NORWALK, Calif. – January 28, 2019 – California State Assembly Member Cristina Garcia (D-58) honored Cerritos College for its official California Promise Program [Cerritos Complete](#) in the State Capitol on January 28. The commendation recognizes the College's Promise Program's success as a national award recipient.



Zurich Lewis, Asm. Cristina Garcia, Dr. Jose L. Fierro, and Phil Herrera

Cerritos Complete won the 2018 Examples of *Excelencia* Award in the Associate Level category. Examples of *Excelencia* is the only national effort to identify and promote evidence-based practices that help accelerate Latino student success in higher education.

"It is an honor to be recognized in the California State Assembly by our esteemed lawmakers for the College's efforts to increase access and completion rates in higher education for students," said Dr. Jose L. Fierro, president/superintendent of Cerritos College. "We are proud that our Promise Program Cerritos Complete has gained national prominence for its successful track record of opening doors to students who traditionally do not have a clear pathway to education."

Cerritos Complete was officially established as the College's California Promise Program in 2016, and has served over 1,500 student participants from the College's local high schools, to date. Since its inception, the College has seen a 30 percent increase in the number of degrees and certificates awarded. Cerritos Complete provides local high school students with a merit-based scholarship that covers tuition free for one year. The Promise Program gives students personalized, one-on-one support to help them graduate in less time.

More than 70 percent of Cerritos College students are Latino, and most of these students are first-generation. Program participants generally outperform non-

participants in units completed, persistence, and completion of entry-level math and English, among other areas.

Cerritos Complete was also named as a finalist for the renowned Bellwether Award in 2018.

About Cerritos College: *Cerritos College serves as a comprehensive community college for southeastern Los Angeles County. Communities within the college's district include Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs and South Gate. Cerritos College offers degrees and certificates in more than 180 areas of study in nine divisions. Annually, more than 1,200 students successfully complete their course of studies, and enrollment currently averages 23,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at <http://www.cerritos.edu/>.*

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