



InSight

Spring 2020

www.cerritos.edu



Teacher TRAC Celebrates 20 Years
Meet Tami Francis
Alumna from Teacher TRAC's First Class

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President's Message

Welcome to the spring 2020 issue of *InSight*.

With the rapid spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), our top priority at Cerritos College is to ensure the wellbeing of students, employees, and the community. In our response to COVID-19, we continue to follow guidance and recommendations from local and state officials. If you have driven past the campus recently, you will notice that we are closed for in-person instruction and normal operations. Essential staff are working on campus

in an extremely limited capacity. Classes remain open in an online format. Please know that our ultimate goal is to maintain a safe and healthy campus to reduce the spread of COVID-19. You can learn more about our efforts on page 15.

As you continue to read through this issue, you will find several success stories and a snapshot of some of our best achievements from 2019. Throughout this edition, you will learn more about our outstanding students and our excellent programs and services. We take pride in our rich history of providing quality education and training to people for new careers, and in responding to the workforce needs of business and industry. We are also proud of the important role we play in our local community and with our neighbors.

Cerritos College goes beyond merely providing quality education and practical experience to our students. Our faculty and staff strive to support student success through expanded student support services and the modernization of campus facilities. Whether it is to earn a degree, to prepare for transfer, to upgrade technical skills, or to train for a new career, Cerritos College offers students resources that cover all aspects of their education and professional growth.

In this issue, you will also find information on our latest efforts in addressing students' quality of life and basic needs. Our Food and Housing Insecurity Task Force has been making significant advancements in helping students, thanks to a campus food pantry and a L.A. Food Bank food distribution program. This year, we are also launching an important student housing project, which will help combat student homelessness. We are proud of this development, as it is the first project of its kind and we are the only campus in the state with this model. Please read more about it on page 6.

At Cerritos College, we are committed to providing a vibrant education experience to our students and to creating a safe and supportive campus that gives our students the best opportunity for success. I am pleased to share our work with you.

For more information about our response to COVID-19 and campus updates, please visit www.cerritos.edu.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dr. Jose Fierro
President/Superintendent



Student Profile

(Spring 2019 data)

Student Enrollment by Ethnicity

5.2% African-American

.3% American Indian/
Alaskan Native

9% Asian

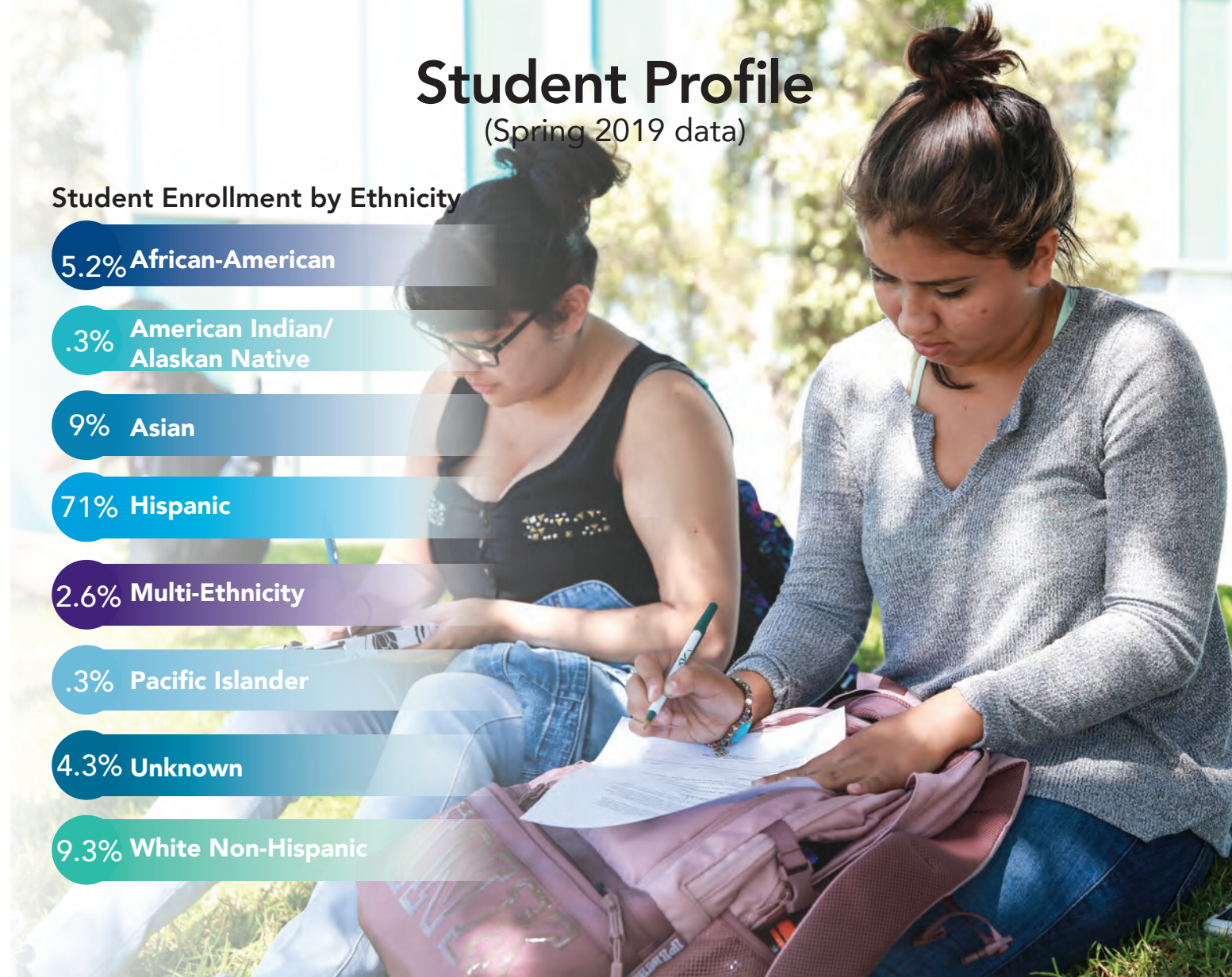
71% Hispanic

2.6% Multi-Ethnicity

.3% Pacific Islander

4.3% Unknown

9.3% White Non-Hispanic



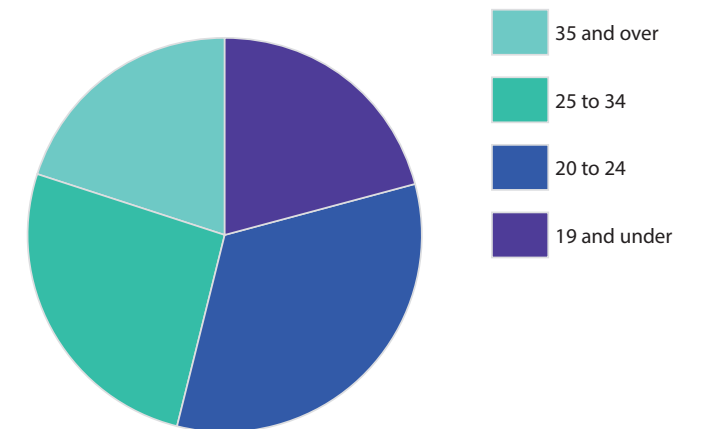
Student Count: 21,671



Gender

Female: 11,909 (53%)
Male: 10,756(45.5%)
Unknown: 380 (2%)

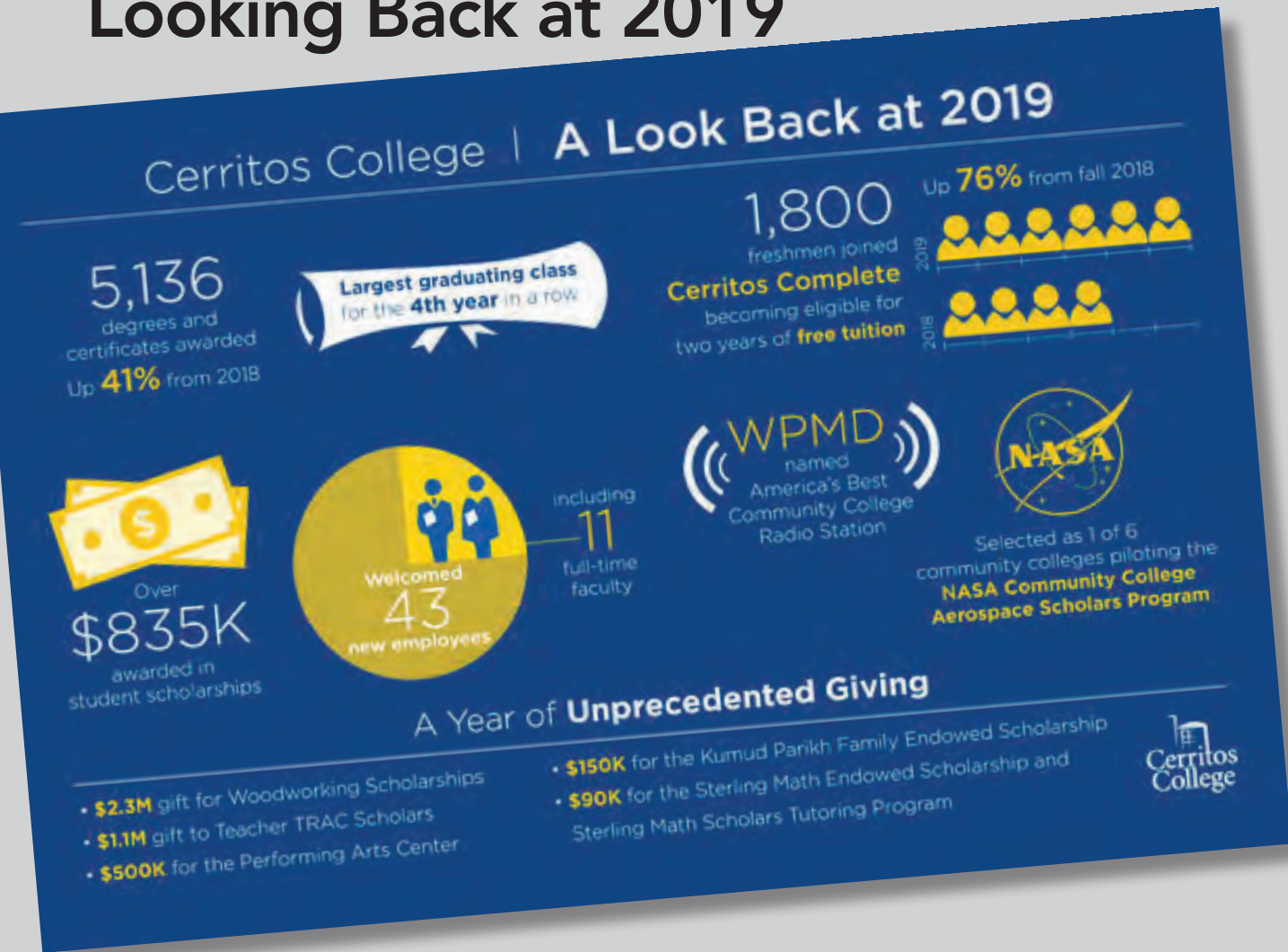
Student Enrollment by Age



First Generation

Both parents attended college or more	23%
Both parents completed high school or less	54%
Unknown	23%

Celebrating Our Success - Looking Back at 2019



Some outstanding things have happened at Cerritos College in 2019. From student success to industry recognition to giving back, it was a year of great strides.

"As we start a new decade, we have extraordinary opportunities to expand our ability to better serve the community and students," said Dr. Jose Fierro, president/superintendent.

Here are a few of the highlights:

Our school and students

- Nearly 2,000 freshmen joined Cerritos Complete, the College's official Promise Program to help students earn and complete their degrees and certificates on time. This is an increase in participation of 76 percent from 2018. The program provides an opportunity for high school seniors or adult students completing high school equivalency to smoothly transition to college, obtain skills and knowledge, explore a variety of careers, save money on college education, and graduate from college on time.
- The College awarded more than 5,000 degrees and certificates - up more than 40 percent from 2018.

- In 2019, Cerritos College had the largest graduating class for the fourth year in a row.
- More than \$800,000 was awarded in student scholarships

Staff and faculty success

- Cerritos College welcomed more than 40 new employees in 2019.
- The college brought on 11 new full-time faculty.

Industry recognition

- Cerritos College was selected as one of only six community colleges piloting the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars Program. This program is an interactive online learning opportunity, highlighted by an onsite learning experience at NASA. Students nationwide are chosen to participate through a competitive process, and workshops take place in the spring and fall semesters of each year.
- Student-operated radio station, WPMD, was named the Best Two-Year College Radio Station at the College Media Association's Fall Media Convention.

This comes on the heels of the station's award for America's Best Community College Radio Station last year by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System.

A year of giving

- \$2.3 million gift for Woodworking scholarships
- \$1.1 million gift to Teacher TRAC Scholars
- \$500,000 for the Performing Arts Center
- \$150,000 for the Kumud Parikh Family Endowed Scholarship, which the Kumud Parikh family established for Cerritos College students
- \$90,000 for the Sterling Math Endowed Scholarships and Sterling Math Scholars Tutoring Program. The scholarship is open to math students transferring to four-year colleges and universities. The tutoring program helps students who want to participate in the American Mathematical Association of Two Year College's annual Student Math League competition.

"For 2020, we will keep our focus on meeting the basic needs of our students," said Dr. Fierro. "This includes ways to tackle student homelessness and food insecurity, as well as nurturing a campus environment that spurs innovation."



Selected as 1 of 6 community colleges piloting the NASA Community College Aerospace Program



Cerritos College received a \$2.3 million gift for Woodworking scholarships



MODERN TOWNHOMES
FEATURING 1,477 SQ.FT. UNITS
UP TO 28 OCCUPANTS

An added issue is that many students may be reluctant to share their struggles and seek help, keeping them from finding stable shelter.

Partnering to find a solution

The project is also the realization of an initiative begun by Jovenes, Inc. in 2016 to partner with community colleges to outreach and house students. The unique partnership with Cerritos College is an investment in the long-term success of students on all levels.

For the last three years, Cerritos College and Jovenes, Inc. have partnered to place Jovenes, Inc.'s staff on campus to connect homeless students with housing support in the community. Prior to now, students were primarily housed through utilization of rental subsidies that allowed them to move into apartments close to campus and receive financial support, along with social and academic services.

With The Village, this partnership takes a giant step forward. It is the first project of its kind and Cerritos College is the only campus in California with this type of housing model.

Jovenes, Inc. will provide day-to-day management and services to help students leave homelessness behind and complete their educational goals. They will also receive referrals from Cerritos College staff and departments, such as Financial Aid, EOPS, and the Guardian Scholars Program.

About The Village

The property, located just blocks away from campus, consists of seven townhomes, using a mix of free options (bridge housing) and affordable options for students.

Jovenes, Inc. will be the lead service provider and will screen students for eligibility. The new project will house up to 28 students between the ages of 18-25 years old.

Support for this project comes from a variety of public and private resources, including the California Wellness Foundation, the Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation, the Roth Family Foundation, the Pritzker Foster Care Initiative, and the Peter & Candis Doerken Foundation.

LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn is also providing a key contribution to support program operations for the next three years.

Students who are experiencing, or at risk of facing housing insecurity, becoming homeless, and are between the ages 18 and 25, can access The Village and other housing resources by sending an email to CerritosPN@jovenesinc.org.

Cerritos College Opens The Village First Housing Project of its Kind Offers Student Housing for Transitional Adult Youth

Cerritos College is about to celebrate a milestone with the opening of The Village, California's first community college housing development exclusively for students facing homelessness. In partnership with Jovenes, Inc. – a Los Angeles nonprofit whose mission is to assist homeless and displaced young adults – Cerritos College's new project will provide safe and secure housing and support services to students who face housing insecurity.

Since 2019, the College collaborated with The City of Norwalk, Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn (2nd District), and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, to establish a transitional student housing development to address student homelessness.

"We are committed to finding viable solutions for students with housing insecurity," said President/Superintendent Dr. Jose Fierro. "This is the first step of many to come."

Some facts about student homelessness

According to the 2019 #RealCollege Survey Report conducted by the Hope Lab, across California, nearly one in five community college students experience homelessness.

Findings showed that 55 percent of respondents are housing insecure and had difficulty paying rent or a mortgage. Additional research suggests students who experience homelessness and food insecurity also find it difficult to meet a variety of competing needs, including management of personal and financial responsibilities and navigating college environments.

As defined by the study, homelessness includes living situations such as couch surfing, living in a car or motel, or living outside. Housing insecurity is being in a situation that makes losing permanent housing more likely, such as missing a rent payment or living in an overcrowded space situation.

Certain sub-populations, such as youth with foster care experience, are especially at-risk.

Why is homelessness a problem?

Homelessness has become a persistent problem statewide across California's 114 community college campuses. Several factors have combined to make housing and homelessness especially significant, including rising tuitions, an overall lack of affordable housing, and financial aid packages that can't keep up with the costs of food, gas, childcare, etc.





Kimberly Sayo: Focusing on Helping Others and Making a Difference

Kimberly Sayo became an experienced traveler from a young age. Born in Virginia, her family moved to the Philippines soon after her birth, before relocating to Southern California when she was seven.

After going through the public school system and graduating high school, Kimberly worked at a beauty supply store to help support her mother, who had a medical condition. A friend, who was a Cerritos College student, suggested Kimberly attend college. As one of the first in her family to enroll, however, she had no idea how to get started. With her friend's help, she enrolled at Cerritos College.

Although Kimberly had no idea what she wanted to study, she wanted to get involved – she wanted to stay busy to help combat depression. She ultimately joined the Robotics Club and began taking STEM classes, where she cultivated an interest in chemistry. Professor Cheryl Shimazu became a mentor, while Robotics Club Advisor and Physics Instructor Carlos Mera provided Kimberly with outreach opportunities at events such as Comic-Con and the City of STEM, where she introduced STEM concepts to children. Through these experiences, she found her love for helping others.

In addition to her role as a student, Kimberly worked 30 hours a week, having worked at Toys“R”Us and Panda Express, and in the chemistry stock room, and tutored chemistry and math students on campus.

“Through tutoring, I could review materials and retain information while helping other students,” she said.

A friend in the Robotics Club saw Kimberly's interest in helping others and suggested she join the Associated Students of Cerritos College (ASCC). Kimberly served as the Clerk and Chief of Staff in 2018, helped provide funding for undocumented students to participate in a NASA internship, and implemented the initiative to extend the library hours during exams. These experiences prepared her for her current leadership role as ASCC President. As a president, Kimberly is leading an initiative to provide business attire clothing to students for free. She is a two-time recipient of ASCC's Golden Falcon Award.

Kimberly continued her teaching journey in 2019, when she joined the Taiwan Educational Experiences Program, teaching English to elementary students in Taiwan. It was an eye-opening experience for her, giving her a global perspective of helping people.

She also participated in the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) program. After a five-week program online, Kimberly was selected to participate in a prestigious internship at the Kennedy Space Center, where she completed a rigorous one-week Rover project with 40 students chosen from across the country.

Kimberly has applied to UC Berkeley and UCLA, and plans to double major in biostatistics and global studies or public health. Now that she has found her calling, her goal is to work for UNESCO and promote global collaboration in education, sciences, and culture.

“Education, STEM, and helping people are all important to me,” said Kimberly. “Working for UNESCO will connect all of my passions into a career.”

Salvador Uribe: A Leader who Makes a Difference

Salvador Uribe was born a farmer's son in Mexico. When he was two years old, his family sold their ranch and relocated to California in search of a better life. His parents worked day and night to provide for their four children while transitioning from farm to urban life.

When Sal graduated from Bell Gardens High School, he began working in construction to save money for his education. While on a job, he fell through a roof and suffered head trauma, resulting in brain injury. The accident prevented Sal from attending school, working, and driving for three years.

“I felt my youth fading away at the age of 18,” he recalls.

In 2009, Sal and his family became legal residents of the United States, and he was healed enough to return to work. Thrilled for the opportunity to get out into the world and contribute to society, Sal struggled to find a job since he had no previous work experience.

He finally got a job with a private security company, for which he still works as a shift supervisor.

Sal was working as many as 70 hours a week with two jobs to save for his future, but knew he needed an education to earn more money. He enrolled at Cerritos College in 2014, but had no clue which major he should choose.

In 2016, Sal met Spanish professor Carlos Arce, who told him, “If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.” The words stuck with Sal. He became more active on campus and started looking for ways to help others. He also met three geography faculty mentors – Ryan Goode, who became his role model; Crystal Lo Vetere, who was in his shoes years ago, juggling school and work; and Daniella Barajas, who was not the best student, but never gave up. All three mentors believed in him and their stories resonated with Sal. They also helped him find his calling in geography.

On campus, he serves as a student ambassador for the College, providing information to local high school and middle school students. He has served as a lab aide for Professor Lo Vetere and a note taker for Student Accessibility Services (SAS).

In 2018, Sal founded the Geography Club. The club advocates for reducing plastic use and is working on reducing single-use plastic bottles on campus, and hosts events and competitions. Because of the group's efforts, the first-year club received ASCC's 2019 Club of the Year award. He has received many awards, including the College's Geography Scholarship and Bob Epple Scholarship, and is a two-time winner of ASCC's Silver Falcon leadership award.

Even with his fully-packed schedule, Sal took part in an internship with a local environmental advocacy organization in Long Beach called Algalita Marine Research and Education last summer. He learned about the depth of the devastation being caused by plastic pollution in the ocean and eco system. This experience ignited Sal's passion for environmental protection, and he became the Sustainability Deputy for ASCC.

Now, Sal has a clear vision of his career goal -- an environmental justice attorney. He wants to protect underrepresented people who suffer health problems due to pollution caused by large corporations. While he would transfer to any UC or CSU, his dream school is UC Berkeley. By getting accepted to such a respected school, he wants to show his parents, who sacrificed their lives for their children, that their hard work has paid off.

A true leader who tirelessly and selflessly dedicates his time to the greater good, Sal is committed to continuing to make a difference in his community and beyond.





Class of 2019

Award-winning Teacher TRAC Program Celebrates Two Decades of Training Future Educators

In January, Cerritos College celebrated 20 years of its award-winning Teacher TRAC program.

Cerritos College's Teacher TRaining ACademy is a nationally-recognized teacher preparation program, serving students interested in teaching early childhood, elementary, secondary, or career technical education (CTE). The program provides students with a seamless transition to earning a bachelor's degree and teaching credential at local universities.

The Teacher TRAC Center and Counseling teams are dedicated to assisting students on their path to becoming a teacher. Each pathway has program counselors who help students with their educational planning and needs.

Some of the Teacher TRAC services include:

- Working closely with local school districts to provide fieldwork placements, paid internships, and work-based learning opportunities;
- Collaborating with local California State Universities to provide seamless transfer pathways for students;
- Annual scholarships; and
- Access to experienced faculty who can provide up-to-date, relevant coursework that prepares students for their role as future teachers. These teachers can also add authorizations that allow them to teach in multiple areas.

To date, Teacher TRAC has trained more than 800 teachers who are now working nationally and throughout Southern California.

For more information about Teacher TRAC, visit www.teachertrac.com, or call (562) 860-2451 ext. 2212.

Students: Ingrid Cherrington, Leticia De Leon, Jycell Delgado, Tami Francis, Lina Martinez, Lorraine Phillips, Jacqueline Rios, Marilu Rosales, Laura Sander, Monica Torres, Veronica H. Torres, Tracie Ybarra

Faculty/Leadership Team: Sue Parsons, Cheryl Shimazu, Chris Sugiyama, Gloria Montengro-Bridges, Geri Codd, Kent Colbath, Susan Oliver

Board Members: Cheryl Epple, Ted Edmiston, Robert Arthur, John Moore, Bob Verderber

President/Superintendent:
Dr. Fred Gaskin



First Graduating Class of 2000



Life Comes in Full Circle with Teacher TRAC

Indiana native Tami Francis met her husband when the two were students at Indiana University. Upon his graduation, they moved to his home state of California.

In 1991, Tami decided to work toward completing her degree and enrolled at Cerritos College.

Juggling a busy schedule of studying to become a pharmacist while caring for a family, Tami didn't consult with a counselor. The result was she earned two associate degrees in seven years – but was still unable to transfer.

Frustrated, Tami finally met with a counselor and it was recommended she accelerate transfer by taking part in the startup K-12 teacher preparation program called Teacher TRAC. Teacher TRAC provides students with a seamless transition toward earning a bachelor's degree and a teaching credential at local universities.

While she never thought of pursuing a career in teaching, Tami decided to give the program a try and joined the inaugural class of the now award-winning Teacher TRAC.

Tami appreciated the program support provided by counselors, instructors, and staff. In addition, first-year student teachers visit a local elementary school and observe classes to see, firsthand, how teachers work with children.

After her observation and student teaching experience at Downey Unified School District, Tami fell in love with teaching. She finished her Cerritos College studies and transferred to California State University, Long Beach to complete her bachelor's degree and teaching credential. She went on to teach fifth grade for three years at Downey USD before going on to complete her master's degree in educational administration at Point Loma Nazarene University.

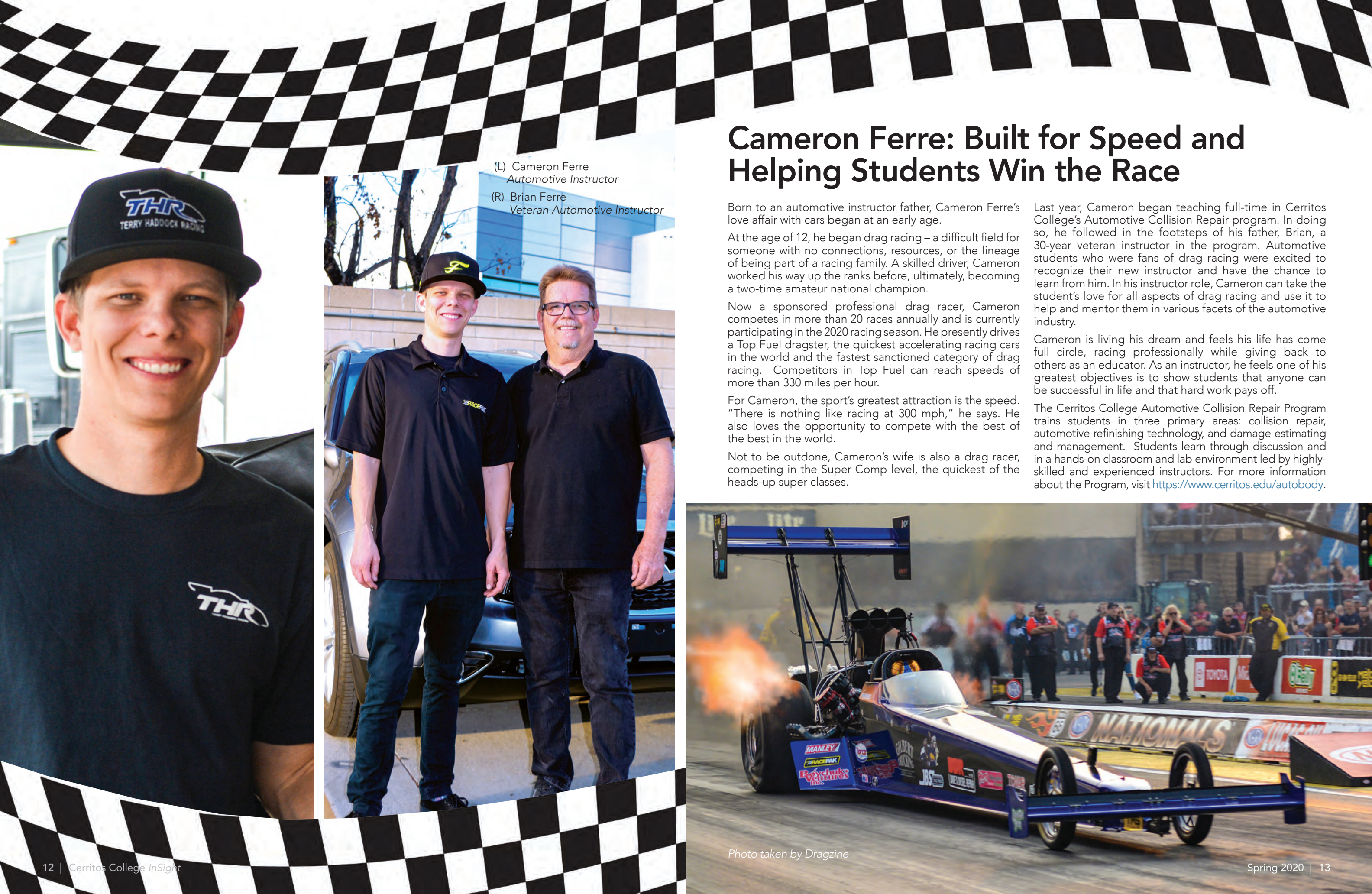
Teacher TRAC founder, Sue Parsons, then invited Tami to return to Cerritos College to teach as part of the program. Tami appreciated the opportunity to give back to the program and ultimately taught Teacher TRAC students for eight years.

After more than a decade in the classroom, Tami became an administrator in 2016. She now serves as a vice principal at Lewis Elementary School in the Downey USD.

She has been involved in Teacher TRAC, on various levels – as a student, an instructor, and a K-12 partner. She continues to collaborate with Teacher TRAC and is proud to be able to accept student teachers from the program.

The fact that she has come full circle is not lost on Tami and she appreciates the chance to help new student teachers gain experience and find their calling.

"I love helping develop new teachers, knowing they will make a positive impact on student lives."



(L) Cameron Ferre
Automotive Instructor
(R) Brian Ferre
Veteran Automotive Instructor

Cameron Ferre: Built for Speed and Helping Students Win the Race

Born to an automotive instructor father, Cameron Ferre’s love affair with cars began at an early age.

At the age of 12, he began drag racing – a difficult field for someone with no connections, resources, or the lineage of being part of a racing family. A skilled driver, Cameron worked his way up the ranks before, ultimately, becoming a two-time amateur national champion.

Now a sponsored professional drag racer, Cameron competes in more than 20 races annually and is currently participating in the 2020 racing season. He presently drives a Top Fuel dragster, the quickest accelerating racing cars in the world and the fastest sanctioned category of drag racing. Competitors in Top Fuel can reach speeds of more than 330 miles per hour.

For Cameron, the sport’s greatest attraction is the speed. “There is nothing like racing at 300 mph,” he says. He also loves the opportunity to compete with the best of the best in the world.

Not to be outdone, Cameron’s wife is also a drag racer, competing in the Super Comp level, the quickest of the heads-up super classes.

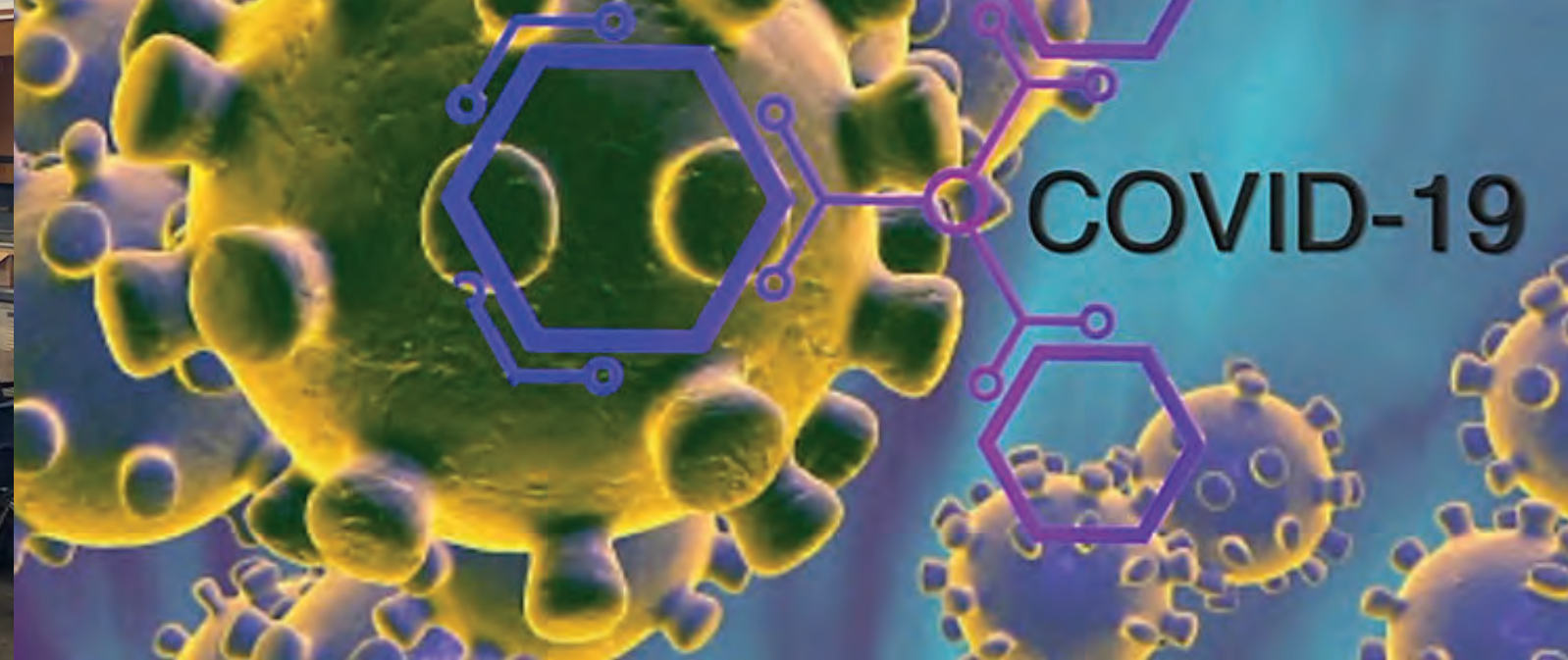
Last year, Cameron began teaching full-time in Cerritos College’s Automotive Collision Repair program. In doing so, he followed in the footsteps of his father, Brian, a 30-year veteran instructor in the program. Automotive students who were fans of drag racing were excited to recognize their new instructor and have the chance to learn from him. In his instructor role, Cameron can take the student’s love for all aspects of drag racing and use it to help and mentor them in various facets of the automotive industry.

Cameron is living his dream and feels his life has come full circle, racing professionally while giving back to others as an educator. As an instructor, he feels one of his greatest objectives is to show students that anyone can be successful in life and that hard work pays off.

The Cerritos College Automotive Collision Repair Program trains students in three primary areas: collision repair, automotive refinishing technology, and damage estimating and management. Students learn through discussion and in a hands-on classroom and lab environment led by highly-skilled and experienced instructors. For more information about the Program, visit <https://www.cerritos.edu/autobody>.



Photo taken by Dragzine



Responding to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Cerritos College Dual Enrollment Program – Helping Young Students Achieve Early Success

Dual enrollment is a practice designed to help high school students fulfill their diploma requirements and college graduation requisites at the same time.

Cerritos College started offering dual enrollment opportunities at its partner high schools in 2017, when AB 288 passed in the state legislature. Working with its four partner K-12 school districts – ABC Unified School District, Downey Unified School District, Bellflower Unified School District, and Norwalk/La Mirada Unified School District – the college created College and Career Access Pathway (CCAP) Agreements. The CCAP agreement allows the college to offer college-level classes to students on high school campuses.

The college and the high schools work together to determine which classes will be offered. To date, the college has offered a variety of courses at its partner high schools, including English, math, English as a second language, sociology, psychology, law, auto, history of rock, film, and counseling.

There are many benefits to dual enrollment. These include:

- Saving time and money by taking college classes while in high school;
- Taking courses that may be transferable to the UC and/or CSU systems;

- Classes are free to high school students, and the college and the district collaborate to share the cost; and
- Early exposure to college opportunities and programs.

In addition to taking college classes at their high school site, high school students can also take classes at the college. This can be a great option for students who are interested in summer classes or evening classes during the school year.

Students interested in attending Cerritos College after graduation can take part in Cerritos Complete, the college's official Promise Program. Cerritos Complete provides students with two years of free tuition, as long as they meet program requirements.

In the 2018-2019 school year, 531 students participated in dual enrollment classes at their high schools.

Cerritos College and its partner districts are planning to expand course offerings in the future and there is discussion about creating an early college program. This would allow high school students as early as the ninth grade to complete general education classes that may be transferable to UC and CSU schools.

At Cerritos College, our top priority is to ensure the safety of students, employees, and the community. In order to limit the potential spread and transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) on campus and in our community, the College has implemented various measures to reduce foot traffic on campus, including moving classes and support services to an online format, cancelling events, limiting meetings to an internet-based platform, and reducing non-essential travel. The College has also activated its Emergency Operational Procedures to implement additional preventative strategies.

On March 16, the Cerritos College Board of Trustees passed a resolution to authorize the President/Superintendent to take any and all necessary actions to prepare and respond to coronavirus (COVID-19). As a result, all campus support functions moved online to protect employees and their families' health.

Conversion to Online Learning Environment for Students

All spring and summer 2020 classes have transitioned to an online learning environment or in a modified format through the end of the term.

Campus Support Services

The College has moved all of the campus support functions online to protect employees and their families' health. A list of the most frequently asked questions is available on www.cerritos.edu.

Campus Meetings and Events

All committees converted to alternative meeting formats and campus events have been cancelled through May 31, 2020, with a likely extension.

Travel - Effective Immediately

Faculty, staff, and students are strongly discouraged from travel to protect community health.

For more information about Cerritos College's efforts concerning COVID-19, please visit: <https://www.cerritos.edu>.

Actions We Are Taking to Combat COVID-19

Reduced footprint on campus by limiting access to employees, students, and guests.

Transitioned most classes to an online learning platform.

Moved support operations online. Work functions that can be performed remotely will be migrated.

Use alternative work schedules and social distancing to meet operational needs.

Work with campus leaders to safely operate campus.





Cerritos Community College District
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Summer/Fall 2020 Campus Calendar

- May 18 Summer 2020 session open enrollment begins
 - May 26 Summer 2020 session I begins
 - July 6 Summer 2020 session II begins
 - July 1 Fall 2020 semester open enrollment begins
 - August 17 Fall 2020 semester begins
- *Dates are subject to change

Administration

Jose Fierro, D.V.M., Ph.D.
President/Superintendent

Rick Miranda
*Vice President of
 Academic Affairs/
 Assistant Superintendent*

Felipe Lopez
*Vice President of
 Business Services/
 Assistant Superintendent*

Adriana Flores-Church, Ed.D.
*Vice President of
 Human Resources/
 Assistant Superintendent*

Dilcie Perez, Ed.D.
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