



CERRITOS COLLEGE

HISTORY

Cerritos College was established on June 10, 1955, when citizens of the Bellflower, Norwalk, Artesia, Carmenita, and Bloomfield elementary districts voted four-to-one in favor of forming a junior college district. On September 27, 1955, a ballot measure calling for a six-million-dollar bond issue to build the junior college passed, again by a four-to-one margin. Title to the proposed college site was acquired on December 5, 1956, and the college board turned its attention to securing favorable zoning so that construction could begin.

The credit for the birth of Cerritos College lies chiefly with Dr. Ralph Burnight, first president of the institution. Superintendent of the Excelsior Union High School District for 27 years before the college was born, Burnight had seen the need for the extension of educational opportunities offered at his high school and fought the state board of education for the establishment of a college in 1953, when the state board indicated it was doubtful that the district could attract a minimum enrollment of 400 students.

Dr. Burnight, however, was convinced that the area would continue to grow, and three years later the board of—Leslie Nottingham, Walter Van Alstine, Dale Donnell, Al Sommer and Arthur Kulzer—authorized the college to offer instruction. On September 11, 1956, in classrooms rented from the Excelsior High School District, 197 students enrolled in classes and made the college a reality. That first semester, ten certified teachers offered 15 subjects, with Dr. Burnight at the helm. Beginning with the 1957-58 school year, the college operated out of Artesia High School, awaiting the completion of the new campus.

By the end of 1959, eight buildings (Field House, 3-25-58; Business Education, Lecture Hall, Science, Shower and Locker, 10-6-59; Liberal Arts, Technology, Electronics, 9-15-59) had been completed on campus, and funds were made available to provide the remaining facilities to accommodate a student body of 3,500 students.

By 1961 the campus was beginning to look like a college with the completion of four more buildings (Library and Gymnasium, 7-1-61; Metal Trades Shop Building, 7-17-61; Student Center, 3-8-60) and an enrollment of 4,000 students. The campus included 95 acres in 1964, and its 15 permanent buildings brought the value of the college to 16 million dollars; it now served a district with an assessed valuation of 271 million dollars.

Effective July 1, 1965, the district included the ABC Unified School District, the Bellflower Unified School District, the Downey Unified School District and the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District. District population was 400,000 and the assessed valuation had jumped to more than 500 million dollars. This would be the year that, beyond the bravest expectations of everyone connected with Cerritos College, enrollment would exceed 10,000 students.

The College acquired the “South 40” acres by 1966, enlarging the campus to 135 acres. The purchase proved to be an excellent investment by the board; land values in the college’s district have since skyrocketed. The property today supports the Health Sciences Building, the largest parking lot on campus, the Auto Technology Building and the Community Education Center. The campus grew to 18 buildings by the 1968-69 school year, with a student enrollment of more than 11,000. The district, too, was growing and now included more than half a million people and an assessed valuation of 543 million dollars. The 18 buildings were complemented by a weight-lifting facility in 1971 and a student activities and bookstore complex in 1974.

With the campus thus complete for the time being, the administration and board of trustees turned to building the excellence of the academic programs, which had a strong foundation. Innovation in satellite courses,



Original football locker room.



Original Falcon Square



New Science Building



televised instruction, open entry and exit classes, and the move into audio-visual instruction marked the coming decade.

In 1972, the student population reached 17,000. The next year, 18,000 students attended classes, and the assessed valuation of the district had grown to more than 800 million dollars. The early 1970's were marked by spiraling inflation and tighter money, yet the College financed a new, modern bookstore (3-19-74), the Health Sciences Building (2-1-78) and the Auto Technology Building (9-1-78) to cope with the growing demands of students.

The bicentennial year in 1976 was a special time for Cerritos, as well as for millions of other Americans. Twenty years earlier, the 135-acre campus had been in its infancy, and educational visionaries had predicted that by 1975 more than 15,000 students would be attending classes in the many buildings depicted only on the architect's drawing boards. That modest forecast failed to foresee an even greater need in the community by 1975, when nearly 23,000 students enrolled in courses. In 1970-71, the predicted 15,000 had already been exceeded and growing pains brought expansion to the campus, which continues to grow to meet the demands of the surrounding communities.

By its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1980, Cerritos College had educated nearly 250,000 students since it first opened its doors at Excelsior High School. Course offerings had expanded, a satellite campus program had been implemented, and the faculty and staff had grown as the community needs increased. Cerritos College received its first ever Federal Title III Grant in 1986. The grant was in the amount of \$500,000 renewable for five years, totaling 2.5 million dollars.

Over the last few years, the college has undergone five major renovations. In 1994, the Wilford Michael Library and Learning Resource Center (LRC) underwent another major renovation and expansion. The library expanded from 22,000 square feet to over 40,000 square feet. The old card catalog was replaced with an automated on line system as a result of a major financial gift by the Associated Students of Cerritos College (ASCC). A modern teleconference center and learning assistance lab were added to the east wing of the Learning Resource Center.

The student center was renovated in 1995, funded by a three-way partnership between the ASCC, the college district and the state. Unchanged since its doors first opened, the student center was completely remodeled from the main floor to the adjacent culinary arts food service area. The renovation also included a four-restaurant food court with both indoor and outdoor casual dining for students.

In fall of 1998, Cerritos College opened the doors to the "One-Stop" Student Services Center. The new center houses a full spectrum of student resources including admissions and records, academic counseling, financial aid, the Scholars' Honors Program, veteran's affairs, EOPS (Extended Opportunities Programs and Services) and university transfer assistance. Each department is equipped with high-speed computers, designed to provide immediate access to the college's network.

In addition, the college's Career Services and Job Placement Centers have been moved within a short distance of the "One Stop" Student Services Center, making it the central hub of all Student Services and enrollment activities.

Also in the fall of 1998, the second phase of the Learning Resource Center opened, featuring a computer lab more than 500 high-speed personal computers and 699 data ports. The dual-level computer labs provide students with access to the latest software, high-speed Internet and tutorial programs. In addition, there are dedicated labs for reading, math, English and foreign languages. This renovation of the LRC was part of a \$12 million investment in a technology infrastructure that also included the "wiring" of the entire campus and the placement of a networked PC on the desk of each employee. As a result, Cerritos College

became "the most technologically advanced community college in the state" for teaching and learning.

In 1999, the ASCC underwrote the development of Falcon Square, formerly a cement quad situated at the heart of the campus. Falcon Square is a wonderful area for students to relax or study in front of a split face block waterfall with concrete seat caps and slate covering. As part of the renovation, a 300-seat outdoor amphitheater was built in front of the College's music building.

Cerritos College takes pride in the quality of their outstanding faculty. In 1995, Economics Professor Dianne Keenan was selected as the "Community College Professor of the Year" by the National Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. In 1999, Mathematics Professor Susan Parsons was recognized as the nation's "Outstanding Community College Faculty Member of the Year" by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT).

Cerritos College is highly diverse. Across the nation, it is the fourth largest Hispanic-serving community college. Furthermore, it is home to more than 300 international students representing 34 countries. With the turn of the millennium, expansion began to take on a new face at Cerritos College. Instead of adding onto the campus as in the past, Cerritos College began to develop global partnerships with the aid of technology. This became extremely beneficial to education in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, when pursuing cross-cultural educational opportunities became more challenging.

In late 1999, a partnership began between Cerritos College and the University of Wisconsin-Stout (UW-Stout). The two colleges began to hold joint class sessions in real time with the use of a TV screen and the Internet. Not only did this allow for Cerritos College students to exchange ideas with students in another part of the country, but it also allowed Cerritos' ethnically diverse student body to exchange points of view on United States history with the predominately Caucasian population at UW-Stout.

In 2003, the concept of the virtual classroom once again expanded, and Cerritos College entered into a similar partnership with International Pacific College (IPC) in New Zealand. For the first time ever at Cerritos College, two hemispheres were connected in real time and students participated in multi-national approaches to world history. Both the partnership with UW-Stout and IPC also allowed for a handful of Cerritos students to visit their partner campuses and experience "hands on" what they had been experiencing via technology.

In 2002, the ground work was set for Cerritos College to launch into the world of tribal technology with the American Indian community. In 2003, the college began offering online courses offering custom training for American tribal governments. Cerritos College was awarded a \$50,000 Verizon Foundation Grant for the pilot phase of their program, and its first workshop to promote the program was attended by over 15 tribes from California, Arizona, Oklahoma, Idaho and Nevada.

Currently, three online courses are being offered to tribal governments. Now, not only is Cerritos College serving the communities of Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, La Mirada and Norwalk, but it is also serving locations in Wisconsin, New Zealand, Bolivia and American Indian community.

With technology on the rise, Cerritos College is also raising the bar on global partnerships and is making a direct impact on globalization in education by forging ahead into the previously unthread waters of international education right here at home.

Pursuant to its service in the community, the board of trustees adopted a revised mission statement for the college in January 2005: *The Cerritos College mission is to serve the community by building futures through learning.*



Dr. Noelia Vela
Cerritos College
President/Superintendent

Dr. Vela is now in her third year as the President/Superintendent of Cerritos College. Prior to joining Cerritos College, she served since 1997, as president of Pima Community College's Downtown Campus in Tucson, Arizona, president of Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, California, Vice President of Student Services at Irvine Valley College and in numerous other administrative and faculty positions during her 33-year career in education.

Among her many achievements, Dr. Vela led and completed the physical and program transformation of the Pima's Downtown Campus. Dr. Vela has served Cerritos College by leading campus transformation planning, ensuring that students have access to the best instruction, learning resources and leadership development opportunities, linking the planning process with the budget process and in increasing the number of e-classrooms.

In addition to her time as president at Pima College, Dr. Vela served two elected terms on the Association of California Community College Administrators Association, has been a participant and frequent presenter and staff member for the National Institute for Leadership Development and the California Community College Women's Leadership Conference (Asilomar Leaders), has served as a member of the American Association of Community College Research Commission, as a member of the Presidents' Academy Executive Board responsible for Professional Development and Training of community college presidents and most recently is serving as a member of the Global Education Commission. She also serves on the Board of the National Institute for leadership development and the national community college hispanic council. And is currently a member of the Community College League of California's Advisory Committee on Legislation.

In Tucson, she served on the Stone Avenue Corridor Study committee, the Advisory Board for the University of Arizona's Millennium Projects 1 and 2 and on the President1s Diversity Advisory Council for the University of Arizona. She served as the chair-elect of the Metropolitan Education Commission and was on the Boards of the Carondelet Health Network (3 hospitals) and GTEC (Greater Tucson Economic Council).

Dr. Vela was honored as a "Woman on the Move" by the Tucson YWCA, was named to the prestigious group of "Mujeres en la Cumbre" (Women at the Pinnacle) in the Americas and was inducted in the Hall of Fame of the College of Education at Illinois State University.

A native Texan, Dr. Vela grew up in Chicago and received her doctoral degree in leadership behavior from the University of San Diego. Dr. Vela is a resident of Cerritos, California and is endeared by Cerritos College students, faculty and staff for her positive attitude and winning approach to maximizing the college's resources and opportunities.



DR. DAN SMITH
DEAN, HEALTH, PHYSICAL
EDUCATION/ATHLETICS

The Health, Physical Education & Athletics Division is designed to give students the knowledge necessary to develop healthy lifestyles that will lengthen and enhance the quality of their lives. Within this division, courses are popular with both students and faculty alike. Nineteen sports are offered to the Cerritos student body. During the 2006-2007 school year, the college athletic programs finished fifth in State Supremacy Award points based on their finish in State Championship competitions and marks the school's highest finish ever. In 2006, both the women's track and men's soccer teams won state titles.

In 2002 Dr. Smith came to Cerritos College from Nanyang Technical University in Singapore where he coordinated the Master's of Science Program in Exercise and Sport Studies within the Division of Physical Education and Sport Science. During that time, he also served as a part-time Adjunct Professor, teaching management psychology, at the Singapore Institute of Management.

A sports enthusiast, Smith was a former head basketball coach at Brockport State University and at Brigham Young University in Hawaii, an assistant basketball coach at University of Illinois, women's volleyball coach at Rio Hondo College and a former men's volleyball coach at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona.

Smith has extensive consulting experience in sport psychology with professional teams including the Buffalo Sabres, the Chicago Bulls, the Indiana Pacers and the Chicago White Sox.

He holds a PhD in Physical Education from the University of Illinois with an emphasis in sport psychology, and Bachelor and Masters degrees in Physical Education from BYU. Smith is also a Certified Consultant of the Association for the Advancement of Applied Sport Psychology and he recently authored one of the top texts in this field of study.



JEANINE PRINDLE
PE DEPARTMENT
CHAIRPERSON

Jeanine Prindle will be taking on her third administrative position within the HPE/Athletic Division since her retirement from coaching volleyball. She has held various positions in the division, including the Interim Division Dean and Athletic Director. She is currently the Physical Education Department Chair and is responsible for the division's class and teaching schedules, as well as curriculum development. Additionally, Prindle also teaches classes in fitness and self-defense.

In her 22 seasons as the volleyball coach, Prindle compiled a 335-106 record including a state championship in 1992 when she was also named the Coach of the Year. She guided her teams to eight straight South Coast Conference champions and led eight teams to the state tournament. In one three-year span, they advanced to the championship match, while they also went four straight seasons undefeated in conference play.

Prindle received her Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in Physical Education from California State University, Long Beach, where she was a setter on the school's first National Championship team. She also earned her Master's degree in Counseling from Azusa Pacific University. After she finished her playing career at Cerritos College, Prindle was a two-year starter at setter on the volleyball team and was inducted into Long Beach State's Hall of Fame.



JEFF SMITH
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

After spending 21 years as the Cerritos College wrestling coach, Jeff Smith is now beginning his sixth year as the department's Athletic Director after spending a year as an Athletic Coordinator. Smith has announced that this will be his last year, and is retiring at the end of the 2007-08 school year. His duties include helping with facilitating needs of the department in a wide variety of aspects. In addition, Smith also serves as the advisor to the wrestling program and also teaches classes within the department. He remains involved in the progress of the wrestling team and is close to the wrestlers. In his 21 years as the Cerritos College wrestling coach, Smith led the Falcons to 12 South Coast Conference championships, as well as one State Championship and two dual state championships. In 1998, his final season, the Falcons placed fourth in the state championships, after winning the title in 1995. Prior to winning the championship, the team had finished second for three straight seasons.

Smith has had a long list of former wrestlers who have gone on to great accomplishments after their days as a Falcon. Several names include Heath Sims (2000 Olympics Greco-Roman team), George Williams (1992 Olympic Alternate in Greco Roman and 4-time USA Wrestling All-American), Greg Jackson (NCAA Division II National Champion), Rudolph James (NAIA Division I All-American) and Anthony Hamlett (USA Wrestling All-American).

Smith was also an outstanding wrestler in his days, as he was a State Champion and All-American for the Falcons during the 1966-67 season. He then moved onto Michigan State University, where he was a two-time Big Ten Champion and named the conference's Most Outstanding Wrestler. Also a two-time All-American, Smith went on to win national titles in Freestyle and Greco Roman styles of wrestling and was a four-time USA Wrestling All-American. He was also Pan American Games gold medal winner in free style wrestling and was an alternate on the 1972 Olympic Team.



All of the following extensions may be reached by dialing (562) 860-2451.

MEN'S SPORTS

Baseball – Ken Gaylord	Ext. 2890
Basketball – Gary Cain	Ext. 2875
Cross Country – John Goldman.	Ext. 2889
Football - Frank Mazzotta	Ext. 2502
Soccer – Benny Artiaga	Ext. 2879
Swimming – Joe Abing	Ext. 2870
Tennis – Alvin Kim	Ext. 2862
Track and Field - Doug Wells.	Ext. 2889
Water Polo – Joe Abing	Ext. 2870
Wrestling – Don Garriott.	Ext. 2871

WOMEN'S SPORTS

Basketball - Karen Welliver.	Ext. 2868
Cross Country – John Goldman.	Ext. 2889
Soccer – Ruben Gonzalez.	Ext. 4763
Softball – Kodee Murray	Ext. 2873
Swimming – Sergio Macias	Ext. 2869
Tennis – Rosanna Chatman	Ext. 4947
Track and Field – Doug Wells	Ext. 2889
Water Polo – Sergio Macias.	Ext. 2869
Volleyball – Teresa Ortega	Ext. 2881

ADMINISTRATIVE NUMBERS

President/Superintendent – Dr. Noelia Vela.	Ext. 2002
Dean H.P.E.A. – Dr. Daniel Smith.	Ext. 2863
PE Department Chairperson - Jeanine Prindle	Ext. 2866
Athletic Director – Jeff Smith	Ext. 2871
Athletic Coordinator – Debbie Jensen	Ext. 2867
Sports Information Director - John Van Gaston.	Ext. 2896
Physical Education Office	Ext. 2864
Director of Public &Governmental Relations – Mark Wallace	Ext. 2292
Student Activities	Ext. 2473
Center for Lifelong Learning	Ext. 2521
Field House	Ext. 5046