

# 2 YEARS FREE at Cerritos College

February 7, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Since its inception in 2016, our Promise Program has become a household name. Cerritos Complete continues to receive local and national award recognition, and our community is genuinely excited to learn about the program. In fact, nearly 2,000 parents and students attended our Parent Nights hosted across the district this year—and we still have six high schools to visit!

We continue to invest in Cerritos Complete because students in the program achieve more unit completion and higher retention:

- 75% of students persist to their sophomore year, compared to 47% of the first-time enrollment cohort
- In our first cohort, 54% completed 40 or more units during their first two years, compared to 26% in the regular first-time student cohort
- Participants declare majors at a higher rate than other students, and complete all of their math and English/ESL basic skills courses
- 91% enroll in 9 units or more, compared to 45% of all Cerritos College students

That being said, I am pleased to announce we will now cover the cost of two years of tuition for every Cerritos Complete student who is willing to commit to achieving their own success. As we launch into this new phase of the program, I want to point out a couple of distinctions that sets our Promise Program apart from others.

Cerritos Complete is more than a promise. Traditional Promise Programs solely focus on free access to education. In our case, we combine extensive wrap-around student support services and resources that address both access and completion. Not only do we want students to go to college, we want them to complete a degree or certificate or transfer on time. While we offer students the first two years of college free, we require students to invest in their success by meeting required steps to earn their tuition.

Bottom line: if students are willing to do the work, we will pay for their education.

Over the coming weeks, the College will officially roll out the second year of Cerritos Complete; as a part of this effort, we will host a Press Conference on Tuesday, February 12 at 10 a.m. in the courtyard of the Fine Arts Center. I encourage you to visit Cerritos Complete online for more information.

I would like to conclude by expressing my gratitude for the Educational Partnerships Program team and Rick Miranda for their continued support of Cerritos Complete. It takes a lot of time, dedication, and hard work to build a program of this caliber in a relatively short period of time. Please join me in thanking them as well as our entire campus for embracing this program in support of our students.

Thanks,  
Jose

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