

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT/SUPERINTENDENT PRESIDENT'S CAMPUS UPDATES



August 6, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

While we are all busy with work, I hope you have added a few self-care activities to your day. It is important to take breaks from time-to-time and do something you enjoy to stay balanced. Personally, I have added a few more books to my summer list, including *Partners in Command* by Mark Perry, *So You Want to Talk about Race* by Ijeoma Oluo, and of course, *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind* by Shunryu Suzuki, our Falcon Book Club pick this month. What are your new hobbies or activities during this time?

Below are a few campus highlights I would like to share.

Celebrating 65 Years of Excellence

This fall, Cerritos College will celebrate 65 years of student success. While we cannot host on-campus festivities, we are already planning a few virtual events to highlight more than six decades of excellence. On June 10, 1955, residents of Bellflower, Downey, Norwalk, La Mirada, Artesia, Bloomfield, and Carmenita Elementary school districts voted to establish the Excelsior Junior College District, which would later become Cerritos College. On September 17, 1955, the Board of Trustees passed a \$6-million bond to officially build Cerritos College. Instruction on campus began in 1956 with 197 students enrolled in classrooms rented from the Excelsior High School District. Today, Cerritos College serves more than 21,000 students and offers degrees and certificates in more than 180 areas of study in nine divisions. Cerritos College continues to be a leader in innovative programs and initiatives, including Teacher TRAC, Court 2 College (C2C), iFalcon, Cerritos Complete, to name a few. I am looking forward to celebrating and reflecting on our 65 years of great work with you this year. Stay tuned for more details and learn more about the history of Cerritos College [online](#).

Debra Ward Appointed to Early Childhood Policy Council Workforce Advisory Committee

Congratulations to Debra Ward, Director of Child Development Center, who was appointed by California Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon to serve on the Early Childhood Policy Council Workforce Advisory Committee. Debra will serve on the sub-committee of the Governor's Early Childhood Policy Committee. The group will provide recommendations to the Early Childhood Policy Council and other entities on all aspects of early childhood education on an ongoing basis. Great job, Debra!

Teacher TRAC Partners with Columbia Memorial Space Center

Teacher TRAC, in partnership with the Columbia Memorial Space Center (CMSC), received \$274,583 in grants from the National Science Foundation for its new BE-STELLAR program. The funds are allocated to help prepare underserved college students who want to become STEM educators. BE-STELLAR offers mentoring and experiential learning to future STEM teachers through paid internships at the Space Center and STEM faculty mentorships. Thank you to Colleen McKinley and her team, and Laurie Kristinat for working on this grant project. Read the [press release](#) about the partnership.

Cerritos College Study Hall Coming Soon

I am pleased to share that our amazing Cerritos staff is putting together a plan to offer study hall hours in the gym beginning this fall semester. We know that many students are coming to our college to become members of our essential workforce, however, many do not have a quiet place to study or reliable internet access. While details are still being finalized, the plan is to open a study hall in the east and west courts of the gymnasium during the fall semester. Social distancing and mask requirements will be in full effect along with many other requirements to maximize the safety of our students and staff. More details will be shared soon.

Return to Campus Plan

Over the last several weeks we have been preparing to return to campus in a very limited capacity. As many of you know, we will run a few lab classes on campus, and in order to be able to do this in the safest possible way, we will need your help.

The first ask is to please keep an eye on your email with a document to review. The document is our first draft of a return to campus plan. I am calling it a draft because my expectation is that we use this as a living document and keep updating it as we learn more and new guidelines are provided.

My second ask to you is perhaps the most important way that you could help us make a safe return to campus: I ask that each of us follow all the guidelines that will be outlined in the plan. It will take all of us to make this plan work, and while it is not possible for me to ensure everyone's safety, we can minimize our risk by working together and following all safety protocols. I want to thank you in advance for your feedback and collaboration.

As always, please feel free to contact me you have any questions.

Jose

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