



December 16, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

As the semester winds down, I am looking forward to the holiday break. It's the perfect time to pause, reflect, and recharge before we reach 2025. As I reflect on this last year, I am incredibly grateful for your hard work and commitment. Together, we've set ambitious goals, advanced student success, expanded programs, and elevated our institution on a national level. These achievements are a testament to our shared mission and building up our students and our community. Let's end 2024 with some great news on our most recent achievements.

#### **Provisional Approval: Field Ironworker Supervisor B.S. Program**

I am excited to share that we received provisional approval from the Chancellor's Office for the nation's **First Field Ironworker Supervisor Bachelor's Degree** program. This expansion of our partnership with the Los Angeles Field Ironworkers Local 416 and Local 433 Unions marks another milestone in integrating higher education with skilled trades. Upon final approval, this will be our second Bachelor's Degree program at Cerritos College.

#### **Update on the Students First Framework**

Thanks to your efforts, we are making significant strides toward our goal of graduating 50% of students within five years. All of our metrics are improving, and I am proud of the work we have accomplished. I look forward to continuing our efforts during the spring semester.

As we look ahead to 2025, we have identified two key areas that need our focus: 1) helping students attempt 15 or more units in their first term, and 2) improving retention, which involves keeping students enrolled in community college and actively working toward their degrees.

Currently, 51% of our students are enrolled part-time, with 17% of those students considered less than part-time - or as I like to call them, our "foot in the door students". To reach our goal, we need to bring these students fully into the Cerritos College experience. This will ensure they not only go through the door, but also walk across the stage at commencement.

To address retention, we are actively amplifying our support services and streamlining processes in all areas on campus. Retaining our students will be no small feat and it will require everyone on campus to move this metric successfully. By enhancing these programs, ensuring our students feel a sense of belonging, and easing barriers of continuation, we can better guide our students through persistence, retention, and finally to completion.

#### **Happy Holidays**

Thank you for the incredible contributions this year. I hope you enjoyed our Annual Holiday's Reception and don't forget to download your photos [HERE](#). Wishing you a safe, restful, and joyful holiday. See you in 2025!

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