



Office of the
President

November 27, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

Thanksgiving is finally arriving, and like most of you, I am ready for the short yet restful break. One tradition I look forward to each year is writing these Thanksgiving messages and hearing from you about your plans and traditions to celebrate this holiday.

Because my family is in Bogotá, this is a holiday where I especially look forward to spending time with friends and making new memories. This year, I managed to escape cooking duties with the help from our amazing Culinary Arts team, who thankfully provided the Thanksgiving pies and rolls for our Friendsgiving. Did you know they baked over 450 pies this year? Please join me in thanking them for bringing a slice of Cerritos College into our homes, year after year.

I am also grateful for all of you who work hard to do what is best for our students and community. Every day I am impressed by the work you do and how we always put students first.

As we head into the holiday season, I'd like to share one piece of exciting news. Cerritos College was invited to apply for the **U.S. Department of Education's Postsecondary Success Recognition Program, Raise the Bar: College Excellence and Equity**. Only a select few met the criteria to apply. **Only 100 community colleges out of the over 1,200 community colleges in the nation were selected, and Cerritos College made the list. We are one of just 10 in California to be invited and one out of 100 across the entire nation.** This recognition demonstrates that we are a national leader among 2-year institutions in increasing completion, closing equity gaps, and generating upward social mobility for our community.

Together, we are building a campus that not only inspires our community but serves as a model for the nation. Thank you again for all the work you do to uplift our students and community. I appreciate each of you. I hope you enjoy Thanksgiving and time with your friends, family, and loved ones.

Sincerely,

Jose

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