



January 11, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

As wildfires continue to impact our region, my thoughts are with all of you, your families, our staff, and our students during this challenging time. Many members of our Campus Community have been forced to evacuate their homes, while others are facing the devastating loss of their belongings and sense of stability.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each of you for your resilience and dedication to our mission, even as we navigate these extraordinary circumstances. Our primary focus now must be on supporting one another and ensuring that our students and teams feel a sense of compassion and understanding.

As shared by Dr. Mercedes Gutierrez in an email dated January 9; The College is monitoring air quality and running upgraded ventilation systems to ensure a safe environment. Faculty, staff, and administrators experiencing hardships due to the fires should contact their direct supervisor or Human Resources for accommodations. Resources such as N-95 masks, support for those impacted, and assistance through the Falcon's Nest are available. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you or someone you know needs help during this challenging time.

Students who have difficulties attending in-person classes at the start of next week have been instructed to contact their Faculty for individual accommodations and students' services for basic needs support.

To that end, I ask that you:

- **Prioritize Flexibility and Compassion:** Please provide maximum flexibility and grace by excusing students who are unable to attend in-person or online next week as they respond to loss of housing or other emergencies related to the fires.
- **Communicate Support:** Let your students know that you are there to support them. Encourage them to reach out if they need help, and remind them of campus resources available to assist during this time.
- **Take Care of Yourselves:** If you have been directly impacted, please prioritize your well-being and safety. Cerritos College has resources available to support faculty staff and administrators during this difficult time.
- **Check in:** If possible, send an update to your supervisor or me to let us know how you are doing and if you need any support.

Other campus updates as we prepare to welcome everyone on Monday, January 13th:

- **Parking Lot Updates:** In an email sent on January 8, EVP Felipe Lopez provided an update on the Solar Panel Project in Lot 10. While construction continues, sufficient parking remains available, with additional staff parking opening on January 13. We appreciate your patience as we make strides toward sustainability and to become the greenest Community College Campus in the Nation.

- **Enrollment Fraud Prevention:** Drs. Robyn Brammer and Frank Mixson shared an update on January 6 regarding ongoing efforts to combat fraudulent enrollment. Over 1,000 unauthorized accounts were blocked, and unverified students will be dropped from classes before the semester starts. Please encourage students with holds to complete the verification process promptly. Thanks to new tools like N2N authentication and your help, we're making significant progress in addressing this issue.

If you haven't already, please take the time to review the referenced emails for important details. Additionally, please join me in thanking the teams of faculty, classified staff, and administrators who have been diligently working on these crucial matters.

Thank you for all you do, stay safe, and please let us know if you need anything.

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