



February 19, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

Every day at Cerritos College, something important happens.
A student decides they belong here.
A pathway becomes clearer.
A door that once felt closed opens.

The transformation does not happen by accident. It happens because of you.

Expanding Opportunity at Home

Last night, our Board of Trustees approved a significant milestone for our Student Housing Project. The Board authorized Cerritos College's participation in securing approximately \$68 million in state-supported bond funding toward construction, alongside the District's \$12 million investment. This action moves forward our plan to build a 402-bed student housing community on our campus. For many of our students, housing insecurity and long commutes are real barriers to success. Providing safe, stable housing is an investment not only in facilities, but in persistence, completion, and belonging. Access is not only about enrollment. It is about ensuring that students have the support they need to stay and succeed.

Advocating for Access

This spring, we are building on our momentum in ways that matter for our students and our community. We are actively advocating in Sacramento for legislation that will make it easier for high school students to enroll at Cerritos College, expand local bachelor's degree opportunities in high-demand workforce fields, and strengthen the connection between education and meaningful careers.

This is not about policy for policy's sake. It is about access. It is about mobility. It is about ensuring that when students choose Cerritos College, they are choosing a place that removes barriers instead of creating them.

Because of You

We know students choose our college, and stay at our college, because of you. They talk about our faculty who take the extra time. They remember our classified professionals who guide them through complicated processes. They value our managers who lead in spaces where our teams can do their best work.

As we advance our legislative priorities at the state level, **our collective voice will matter**. Expanding access and strengthening local pathways requires our alignment and our advocacy.

When we speak clearly about the impact of our work and the needs of our students, **policymakers listen**. Our new Ironworkers bachelor's degree is the latest example that when our campus speaks with one voice, we can expand opportunity in ways that once seemed out of reach. In the months ahead, we will continue asking for your engagement and your voice as we work to expand opportunity for our students and our community.

Staying Connected

This spring, the same spirit of connection continues through EC Connect — our ongoing effort to strengthen relationships across roles, departments, and divisions. Through coffee conversations, recognition initiatives, leadership engagement opportunities, and campus-wide activities, EC Connect is designed to ensure that we remain accessible, collaborative, and connected.

The upcoming Reverse Job Shadowing Experience offers Executive Council members (EVP Lopez, VP Mixson, VP Gutierrez, VP Brammer, and myself) the opportunity to spend time in your departments, learn about your work firsthand, and strengthen relationships across divisions. I encourage eligible employees to [apply by Monday, March 2](#).

On March 11, EC Games returns with “Draw Your Clan,” bringing our campus community together for friendly competition and fun.

You can learn more about EC Connect and upcoming activities here: https://www.cerritos.edu/president/executive_council/ec-connect.htm

Thank you for all you do.

Jose

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