



May 1, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

We are entering what we often call May Madness, one of the busiest, most meaningful, and most emotional times of the academic year.

In the weeks ahead, our campus will be filled with finals, celebrations, year-end events, and Commencement. This season carries both energy and emotion. For our students, it is a time of reflection, achievement, transition, and sometimes uncertainty. For all of us, it is a powerful reminder of why our work matters.

It is also one of the most rewarding times of the year.

Every student who crosses the stage, every final project completed, every award earned, and every family cheering from the audience reflects something larger. It reflects all of us. The success of our students is not accidental. It is the direct result of a community of faculty, classified and confidential professionals, managers, and hourly employees who show up each day with care, commitment, and purpose.

Last week, we celebrated that commitment at the Decades of Distinction Faculty Lunch, honoring 70 years of teaching excellence at Cerritos College. Recognizing faculty with 30, 35, 40, 45, 46, and even 56 years of service was more than a milestone. It was a testament to the enduring impact of teaching, mentorship, and dedication to students. That legacy lives in every classroom and every student success story.

We also saw that same commitment during the EC Connect Managers' Retreat on April 24. Our managers came together to reflect, plan, and engage in meaningful conversations about courageous leadership, student success, and our shared responsibility to support both students and employees. I am especially grateful to the students who participated in the panel and shared their experiences with honesty and clarity. Their voices grounded our work in what matters most. Thank you as well to Dr. Robyn Brammer and Judy Salas for creating a space that fostered connection, learning, and forward momentum.

We now look ahead to celebrating our classified and confidential employees at the Outstanding Classified and Confidential Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Student Center. These recognitions matter because they highlight the essential work happening across our campus every day.

And, of course, thank you to everyone who joined the recent pickleball clinics. Seeing nearly 30 colleagues come together, build community, and try something new was a reminder that connection and joy are also part of who we are.

As we continue this season, I invite you to join us for the Highland Games Finale, “Paddles Meet Tartan,” on Friday, May 8, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the pickleball courts. Equipment will be provided, and all levels are welcome. Please RSVP here: [Link](#)

I know this time of year brings long days and full calendars. It also brings moments that stay with our students and their families for a lifetime. Thank you for the care, energy, and dedication you bring to this work and to one another. What you do matters, and it is seen in every student success we celebrate.

Jose

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