



*2017-2018
Outstanding
Classified and Confidential
Awards Ceremony*

Thursday
May 24, 2018
11 a.m.
Student Center

2017-2018
Cerritos College
Outstanding Classified and
Confidential Awards

Welcome

Dr. Jose Fierro
President/Superintendent

Years of Service Awards

Presented by

Dr. Jose Fierro
President/Superintendent

Mr. David Moore
Director, Physical Plant and Construction Services

Mr. Patrick O'Donnell
Director, Information Technology

Employees Years of Service

30 Years of Service

Alphonse Mejia, *Information Technology*

Cheryl Thury, *President's Office*

Beverly K. Keck, *Technology*

35 Years of Service

Bryan K. Leighliter, *Facilities*

Anthony T. Gonzales, *Information Technology*

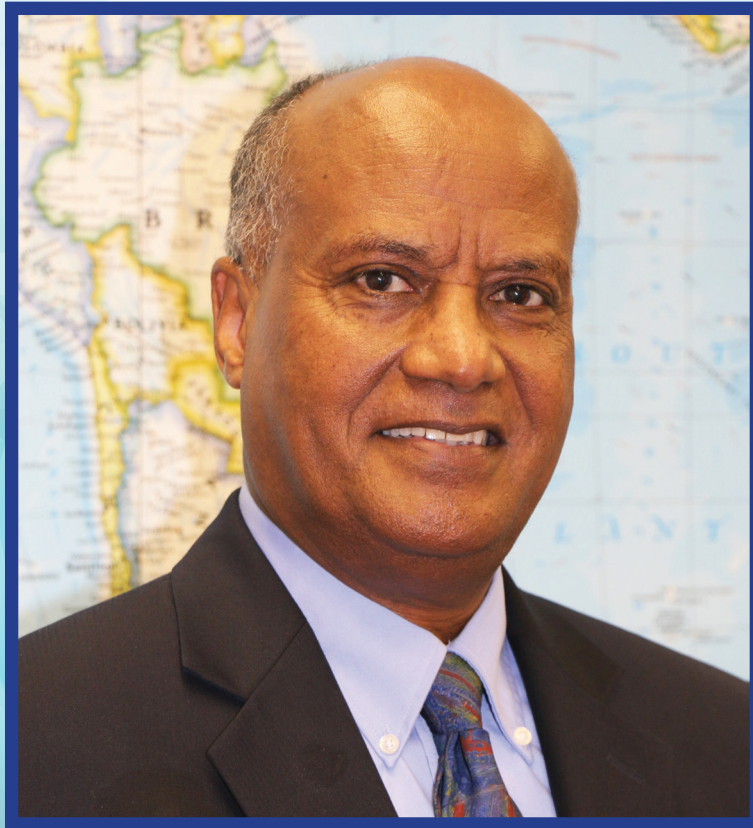
45 Years of Service

Bruce Tanner, *Information Technology*

*2017-2018
Employee of the Year*

David Tilahun

Fine Arts/Communications



David began his career at Cerritos College in the Office of International Students on January 20, 2005.

David exemplifies the qualities and character of a dedicated college employee who goes above and beyond the call of duty. He is an utmost professional who represents the college favorably. The Office of International Student Services is focused on student engagement and student success. David works tirelessly to help contribute towards these efforts. He is always ready and willing to welcome and guide students through the application and admissions process.

David is involved with the Safety Committee, has been the advisor and co-advisor for the International Student Association Club for many years, and is a trainer for Cerritos College's Cultural Responsive Teaching and Learning Workshops.



"It is such a pleasure and honor to have a classified employee who is highly skilled and really enjoys what he does for a living. With his education and work experience combined, David could very well move into various leadership roles, but I am convinced that he loves what he does and this shows through the initiatives that he leads."

Norma C. Rodriguez
Director, Student Program Services

Employee of the Month Recognition



May 2017 - Blanca Gamez

Blanca Gamez began her career at Cerritos College in July 2013 as a short-term temporary employee in CalWORKs. She was hired full-time in January 2017 as the Program Facilitator.

Blanca was a great addition to the CalWORKs department. In the past year she has taken the lead in the department's open house and in the coordination of the end-of-the-year celebration. She is part of the AB540 Taskforce on campus and assists in the decision-making and implementation of important changes on campus that impact our students. Blanca served on the California Community Colleges CalWORKs Association and was one of the key members in the organization of the statewide conference. Blanca is always ready and willing to welcome and guide new students through the services her department has to offer.



June 2017 - Sharon Plump

Sharon began her career at Cerritos College in January 2012 as a classified employee in the Facilities Department.

Sharon is known to the campus for her incredible work ethic and the attention she gives the areas she cares for as a gardener. She radiates joy for her job and her positive attitude is contagious.

Sharon is on campus early and is the first point of contact for many people. She is always ready and willing to help students in need whether it be by giving directions or by offering a warm smile and greeting.

Sharon has a willingness and ability to accept new responsibilities, take on significant challenges, and focus on succeeding in all she does.

Sharon is so outstanding, that this is her second employee of the month recognition award in the last five years and it likely won't be her last.



August 2017 - Shannon Estrada

Shannon began her career at Cerritos College in the Admissions Department as a short-term temporary employee in 1987. She was hired as a classified employee in January 2008 as the Re-Entry Resource Specialist for the Career Services department. Shannon has served our students for 30 years.

Shannon is always ready and willing to welcome and guide students through the services her department has to offer. Many of these students are apprehensive about returning to school, but she quickly puts them at ease and makes them feel like they belong. She easily gains their trust because she truly listens to them. Her joyful laugh is genuine as she is happy to see her re-entry students, especially the new ones. She takes the time to find out how others are doing whether they are students, her coworkers, or colleagues.

September 2017 - Manuel Mendes



Manuel began his career at Cerritos College in the Facilities Department as a custodian on April 17, 1995.

Manuel is assigned to the Automotive Partners Building and Automotive Complex, where according to the staff in that area, he has always done a fantastic job. The Automotive Partners Building is a high traffic area, that serves both the campus and public for training events. There are almost always multiple events on any given day. Manuel works very hard to make sure the building is always in great shape, and is always willing to lend a hand in moving tables, directing traffic and even setting up food for events. He also knows the automotive class schedule and helps instructors with opening classrooms for students and makes sure the gates are open every morning. Quite simply, we would be lost without him.

Even at the end of his 3 a.m. -11 a.m. shift, he is cheerful every morning and is more than willing to direct lost students or help with any projects that pop up.

October 2017 - Nadia Benavidez



Nadia began her career at Cerritos College in the Disabled Students Program and Services Department as a Disabled Students Program Assistant on May 21, 2015.

Nadia has been referred to as a "star employee" by her colleagues. She is always willing to step in and help anywhere she is needed in the DSP&S Department.

Nadia is the first point of contact for all incoming students whether they are returning or new to the campus, she assists the students with scheduling appointments with either a specialist or counselor. Oftentimes Nadia is asked to cover for an absent colleague while handling her own duties. She always maintains a welcoming demeanor no matter the challenge.

November 2017 - Michael Gonzalez



Michael began his career at Cerritos College in the Financial Aid Department as a Financial Aid Technician on January 12, 2005.

Michael performs an important role in the Financial Aid office as he serves at-risk students. Michael has taken on this added responsibility eagerly and has stepped up to the plate by attending meetings and trainings in order to learn about current available resources and best practices. He guides students in achieving their academic goals and future success. Michael shows these students empathy, gives them hope, and provides guidance. It is evident that when a student has met with Michael he or she leaves the office feeling empowered and valued.

December 2017 - Danielle Rogacion



Danielle began her career at Cerritos College on November 17, 2014 in the Child Development Center as the Food Specialist. On August 3, 2015 she was promoted to an Instructional Lab Technician II for the Culinary Arts Program.

Danielle has helped increase foot traffic and awareness about the College's Culinary Arts Program by developing and maintaining Facebook, Yelp, and Instagram accounts. She is constantly coming up with new marketing ideas and keeps the website updated.

Danielle manages the Culinary Arts Café, which requires a balance of student supervision, student education, and public relations. She makes sure the online reservation system runs smoothly, and makes you feel welcome by knowing your name when you pick up your order.

Danielle has been commended by her co-workers for always stepping in to lend a hand when there is a shortage of volunteers.



January 2018 - Yesenia Ramirez

Yesenia began her career at Cerritos College in the Financial Aid Department 17 years ago. She was initially hired as a work-study student. In 2002, she was hired full-time, as a Financial Aid Technician and was promoted to her current position as Financial Aid Specialist in 2004.

Yesenia is currently responsible for coordinating the Cal Grant, Full-Time Success Grant, and the California Completion Grant. She shares in the responsibility of awarding and disbursing millions of dollars of financial aid to eligible students.

Yesenia is a true advocate for students. She works particularly close with our undocumented student population at Cerritos College. She started the Dream Act Application workshops, chaired the UndocuAlly Taskforce, and other activities to increase awareness of our undocumented students. She has been a lead in performing financial aid outreach to numerous high school students and counselors over the years.



February 2018 - David Tilahun

David began his career at Cerritos College in the Office of International Students on January 20, 2005.

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March 2018 - Phally Lay

Phally began her career at Cerritos College in the Academic Affairs Department in August 2017.

Phally has put in a great deal of time and effort to learn her new position as Curriculum Specialist. Not only has she learned this new position quickly, she has made significant improvements to the website, agendas, and committee process. Phally is available to faculty to help with training as the campus transitions to eLumen for curriculum and has been invaluable at this critical time of change. You will often find her in the office late, making sure that agendas are in order and emails have been answered. Phally has developed important relationships at the Chancellor's Office that have improved the speed at which our curriculum is approved. This improvement will positively impact instruction, course offerings, faculty, and students.

Phally is approachable, and maintains a friendly and professional demeanor. She has quickly become an invaluable member of the Curriculum Committee and curriculum process at Cerritos College. Phally is always willing to go the extra mile to make sure things are done correctly and that faculty are supported with their curriculum needs.



April 2018 - Quinn Doan

Quinn began her career at Cerritos College in the Economic Development Department in January 2015.

Quinn is a great team member, willing to help students, colleagues, and the community at large. Quinn goes above and beyond to implement systems to organize the department. She is resourceful and can be trusted to get the job done. As a key member within the Economic Development Department, she assists in maintaining corporate partnerships, programs and grants. She also helps students understand the department's grant programs which provides them with training, employment opportunities, and funding support toward their education.

Quinn is active on-campus, and serves on several committees including Student Equity and Student Success and Support. Quinn volunteers with the Foundation's Golf Tournament, Hall of Fame and many other events. She supports and participates in the community through events such as the ABC Unified School District Fun Run.