



2018 – 2019

Outstanding  
Classified and  
Confidential  
Awards  
Ceremony

Thursday  
May 23, 2019  
11a.m.  
Student Center



Cerritos Community College District  
11110 Alondra Boulevard  
Norwalk, California 90650

## Cerritos College Administration

Jose Fierro, D.V.M., Ph.D.  
*President/Superintendent*

Rick Miranda  
*Vice President of Academic Affairs/  
Assistant Superintendent*

Felipe Lopez  
*Vice President of Business Services/  
Assistant Superintendent*

Adriana Flores-Church, Ed.D  
*Vice President of Human Resources/  
Assistant Superintendent*

Dilcie Perez, Ed.D.  
*Vice President of Student Services/  
Assistant Superintendent*

## Board of Trustees

Carmen Avalos  
*President*

Zurich Lewis  
*Member*

Marisa Perez  
*Vice President*

Dr. Shin Liu  
*Member*

Martha Camacho-Rodriguez  
*Board Clerk*

Dr. Sandra Salazar  
*Member*

James Cody Birkey  
*Member*

Phil Herrera  
*Student Trustee*

# 2018 – 2019 Cerritos College Outstanding Classified and Confidential Awards

## Welcome

Kathy Hogue  
*CSEA President*

## Years of Service Awards

### Presented by

Dr. Jose Fierro  
*President/Superintendent*

Dr. Adriana Flores-Church  
*Vice President of Human Resources/  
Assistant Superintendent*

## Classified/Confidential Employees Years of Service

### Thirty Years

Lee Evans

Santiago Rios Jr.

Kim Applebury

Rufugio Estrada

### Thirty-Five Years

Victoria Curry

Thomas Brush

### Forty Years

Mario Morales

Bernice Watson

# Outstanding Classified/Confidential Awards Employee of the Month Recipients

## **Presented by**

Dr. Dilcie Perez

Linda Ramos, *Leaders INvolved in Creating Change (LINC)*

Raquel Lizarraga, *Educational Partnerships and Programs*

Robert Contreras, *Facilities*

Kristen Towhid, *Library/Student Success*

Aya Abelon, *Public Affairs*

Martha Moncada, *Community Education/CITE*

Irlanda Lopez, *Technology/Cosmetology*

Nancy Molina, *Career Services/Assessment Center*

Team Award Ulysses Valencia and Jenny Mejia, *Financial Aid*

## Most Outstanding Classified

Richard Garcia

*Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS)*

## **Foundation Presentation by**

Clara Potes-Fellow

*Interim Executive Director of Cerritos College Foundation  
and Community Advancement*

# Acknowledgements

*The Cerritos College Foundation is acknowledged for its generous,  
consistent and annual financial support to the  
Outstanding Classified/Confidential Awards project from its inception.*

## **Outstanding Classified/Confidential Employee of the Month Selection Committee**

Dr. Adriana Flores-Church  
Committee Chair

*Vice President of Human Resources  
Assistant Superintendent*

Dr. Elizabeth Miller  
*Management Representative  
Student Services*

Ms. Brenda Sierra  
*Classified Representative  
Library/LRC/EDT*

Mr. Chad Greene  
*Faculty Representative  
Liberal Arts*

Ms. Caitlin Mullins  
*Classified Representative  
Academic Affairs*

Mr. David Tilahun  
*Classified Representative  
International Students*

Mr. Dave Ward  
*Classified Representative  
Fine Arts/Theatre*

Ms. Lucy Self  
*Classified Representative  
HPEDA*

Ms. Maricela Pedroza  
*Classified Representative  
Information Technology*

Ms. Quinn Doan  
*Classified Representative  
Academic Affairs*

Ms. Victoria Vaja  
*Classified Representative  
Health Occupations*

Ms. Monica Acuña  
*Staff Development Assistant  
Human Resources*

For further information concerning the Outstanding Classified/Confidential Awards,  
contact the Office of Human Resource Services at (562) 860-2451, Ext. 2285

# Linda Ramos

## Leaders INvolved in Creating Change (LINC)



Linda Ramos began her career at Cerritos College as the LINC Program Facilitator in the Student Support Services Division in November 2016.

Linda has done an amazing job of developing strong meaningful relationships with the foster youth students attending Cerritos College. She has gained the students' trust because she is reliable, empathetic, and goes above and beyond to ensure that students have the resources they need to be successful. She has assisted several students obtain stable housing that enables them to focus on their studies. Due to Linda's expertise and professionalism, she has developed partnerships with departments and agencies on and off campus to increase the resources available to students.

One example of this is how Linda works with various off campus housing providers to identify ways of streamlining the referral process. As a result, areas across campus like Campus Police, Re-Entry, CAIR, and others have referred homeless students and foster youth to her.

## Classified/Confidential Employees Years of Service Award

### Five Years

Tischel D. Diaz <i>Adult Education</i>	Daniel Becerra <i>Facilities</i>	Vince E. Vizcarra <i>Health Occupations</i>	Laura Sanchez <i>Science, Engineering, Mathematics</i>
Martha Moncada <i>Community Education</i>	Daniel Espinoza <i>Facilities</i>	Brenda Sierra <i>Library/LRC/EDT</i>	Leo Lopez <i>Financial Aid</i>
Caitlin Mullins <i>Academic Affairs</i>	Karla Duarte <i>Fiscal Services</i>	Maria Castro <i>Physical Education/Athletics</i>	Jenny Mejia <i>Financial Aid</i>
Marissa Markey <i>Admissions and Records</i>	Victoria Vaja <i>Health Occupations</i>		Samuel Millard <i>Technology</i>

### Ten Years

Joshua Tolen <i>Campus Police</i>	Shannon Estrada <i>Career Services</i>	Jaime Casillas <i>Facilities</i>	Dan Tufnell <i>Physical Education/Athletics</i>
Michelle Wheatley <i>Campus Police</i>	Janice O'Neal <i>Disabled Student Program &amp; Services</i>	Elvie Howard <i>Facilities</i>	
		Bernie Valdez <i>Facilities</i>	

### Fifteen Years

Julie Mun <i>Academic Affairs</i>	Art Morris <i>Facilities</i>	Maricela Pedroza <i>Information Technology</i>	Veronica Castro <i>Financial Aid</i>
Evelyn Mattison <i>Counseling</i>	Thomas Schmitt <i>Facilities</i>		Silvia Varela <i>Financial Aid</i>

### Twenty Years

Paul E. Badzey <i>Admissions and Records</i>	Veronica G. Boss <i>Disabled Student Program &amp; Service</i>	Cindy Lo <i>Foundation</i>	Miguel Arias <i>Purchasing</i>
Marina Rodriguez <i>CalWORKSs</i>	Kevin T. Butler <i>Facilities</i>	Michael Salazar <i>Information Technology</i>	Ramona Mellgoza <i>Purchasing</i>
John Echeverria <i>Campus Police</i>	Robert Ho <i>Fine Arts/ Communications</i>	Elias Ortega <i>Physical Education/ Athletics</i>	Richard D. Smith <i>Purchasing</i>
Rosario Vasquez <i>Career Services</i>	Schellary E. Thomas <i>Fiscal Services</i>	Lucy Self <i>Physical Education/ Athletics</i>	Kathy Hogue <i>Technology</i>
			Roxanne Mitchell <i>Technology</i>



# Richard Garcia

Extended Opportunity Program and Services  
(EOPS)



2018 - 2019  
Most Outstanding Classified

# Raquel Lizarraga

Educational Partnerships and Pathways



Raquel Lizarraga began her career at Cerritos College as a short term temporary employee in 2007. She left the college to complete her Bachelor's degree and in 2013 was hired as an Administrative Clerk II in the Technology department. In 2017 Raquel was promoted to coordinator for Educational Partnerships and Programs.

Under Raquel's coordination, the number of participating freshman in Cerritos Complete has increased tremendously. She is extremely knowledgeable about the matriculation process from high school to college and has simplified the steps required in the program. Raquel takes challenges in stride and works tirelessly to ensure a smooth process for our K-12 partners, stakeholders on campus, and prospective new students. Raquel's attention to detail, work ethic, and prioritization of students' needs is commendable. Coordinating a program that involves both on-campus and off-campus partners requires extreme organization and excellent communication.

# Robert Contreras

## Facilities

Robert Contreras began his career at Cerritos College in June 2000. In the summer of 2018 he worked out of class as the campus Lock Systems Specialist.

Robert stepped up as the interim Locksmith and performed at a level that impressed staff so much he was nominated for this award by multiple departments. His bosses have received numerous compliments for his quick response time as well as his communication skills. Robert has changed the perception of the campus Locksmith position. He has gone above and beyond and employees have taken notice. Robert is an asset to Cerritos College and the district is grateful for his dedication, knowledge, and skills.

2018 - 2019

## Most Outstanding Classified

Richard Garcia began his career at Cerritos College as a short term temporary employee in 2009, he was hired full time in 2012 in the Counseling Department as an Administrative Clerk. In 2015 he was promoted to a Program Assistant in Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) then in 2016 was promoted to EOPS Specialist

Richard demonstrates his commitment to students on a daily basis. Whether it is working directly with students who are seeking support or working to enhance the student experience through his work on committees, such as The Dreamer Advisory Committee, The Diversity Task Force, The Housing and Food Insecurity Taskforce, and The Accreditation Committee. He works collaboratively with the Cerritos Complete program to ensure students entering Cerritos College are connected to support and resources. He is the face of EOPS for new students and a critical member of the team. Students are drawn to his warmth and kindness as well as his positive energy. Richard embodies the true spirit of Cerritos College and everything we stand for as an institution.

# Jenny Mejia and Ulysses Valencia

Financial Aid



Jenny Mejia and Ulysses Valencia have taken the lead to go above and beyond in providing quality financial aid outreach to current students. They facilitate workshops, awareness fairs, and classroom presentations. The team also gives presentations to high school counselors, students, and parents for the Cerritos Complete program.

Jenny and Ulysses are organized, dedicated, and enthusiastic about increasing the awareness about financial aid resources and simplifying the process for students. They work extremely hard to keep up with the requests from faculty and off campus high school counselors. They do all of this outreach work in addition to their files and counter shifts. As a team, they have created some excellent flyers and posters to help students understand the financial aid process. They have also built strong relationships in the community which have received positive feedback from off campus administrators and counselors. Their dedication and hard work is appreciated.

# Kristen Towhid

Library/Student Success



Kristen Towhid began her career at Cerritos College as a short term temporary employee in 1992. She was hired fulltime by the counseling department in 2001, and was promoted to the Student Success/LRC division in 2011.

Kristen promotes student success through her daily contact with students and the iFalcon initiative and uses every encounter she has with students on campus to encourage them to join the iFalcon club and get LINKED UP. She willingly participates in all campus fairs, information days, community days and any other event that promotes student success. Kristen proudly promotes Cerritos College in programs beyond the campus boundaries by making connections with local elementary schools and then bringing future falcons on campus through its Falcon Kids project. Kristen's peers nominated her for this award because they know and stated: Kristen does her job humbly and never takes credit for her role in student success.



# Aya Abelon

Public Affairs



Aya Abelon began her career at Cerritos College as a full time Classified Employee 2008.

Aya regularly demonstrates a strong spirit of dedication and displays a genuineness in performing her tasks. She maintains a great attitude and professionalism as she seamlessly handles a mountain of responsibilities, including taking photos at events, social media, InSight (magazine to the community), Daily Falcon, Campus Connection, media outreach, among other core duties. In light of increased demands within the department and across campus, Aya has remained steadfast and flexible without complaint. She is regularly first in line to support her co-workers, manager, and collaborates very well with other campus staff. Aya takes pride in her work and completes tasks with excitement – often with short notice.

# Nancy Molina

Career Services/Assessment Center



Nancy Molina began her career at Cerritos College as a short term temporary employee in the Assessment Center in 2014, she was hired full time in 2016 as a Testing Technician in the Assessment Center

Nancy was nominated for this award for her contribution in helping to implement the Self Report Tool on campus. When new legislature came into law in January 2018, the college began the process of implementing this tool that would impact the assessment process in a big way. Nancy was part of a team that had one month to manually enter more than 1,000 student's placement results into our PeopleSoft system for the Cerritos Complete program. Nancy's "Can Do" attitude, along with her team, was instrumental in successfully insuring the student data was entered into PeopleSoft on schedule. Nancy along with her colleagues continue to streamline and improve the process so our students may receive a speedy clearance and move on to registration



# Martha Moncada

Community Education/CITE



Martha Moncada began her career at Cerritos College as a full time Classified Employee in 2013.

Martha is extremely dedicated to the department and to the employees who work in Community Education. She trains all new registration clerks on how to work with customers and how to get our students registered in our system. She is like their “work mother” in that they all come to her for advice, tips, etc. The adult hourly staff that works in the office year-round rely on her so much, and she is their role model on how to conduct yourself in the office and with customers. She asked for additional duties a few years back, and so she began assisting with the Intensive English Program as a liaison with the prospective students and took on a role with helping in community educations advertising efforts.

# Irlanda Lopez

Technology/Cosmetology



Irlanda Lopez began her career at Cerritos College as a short term temporary employee in 1997. She was hired full time in 2002 in the International Student Office as a typist clerk. In 2005 she was promoted to a Program Assistant II in Community Education then in 2007 she was promoted to Program Facilitator in the Cosmetology Department, her current position.

Irlanda has a growth mindset and does whatever it takes to improve the processes of the Cosmetology Department. She continuously provides suggestions and improvements, helps students, and cares for our clients. She has suggested ways to improve the operations of the department so our students and clients walk away with a better experience. She will also step in and help her coworkers when needed. Her intrapreneurship spirit is contagious and has helped the department get where it is today.