Facts at a Glance

CERRITOS COLLEGE

Mission Statement: *Cerritos College values its diverse student population and is committed to providing these students with high quality, comprehensive instructional programs and support services that improve student success and offer clear pathways to achieve personal, educational, and career goals. In doing so, the college develops in students the knowledge, skills, and values that prepare them to be productive participants in the global community.*



Jose L. Fierro D.V.M. Ph.D.
President/
Superintendent

Founded	1955
Degrees & Programs	200+
Mascot	Falcon
School Colors	Blue and white
Enrollment	**Spring 2026: 23,175 (21,266 credit and 1,909 noncredit)**
Campus Size	135 acres
Associate Degrees and Certificates Awarded	**Year 2025-2026 8,000+**

Accreditation

- Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges
- American Dental Association (Dental Hygiene Program)
- National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission, Inc. (Nursing Program)
- American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (Pharmacy Technician Training Program)
- American Physical Therapy Association (Physical Therapist Assistant Program)
- National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (Automotive Mechanical Repair Programs)

Employees

624 full-time employees (245 faculty)
1,823 part-time employees (852 faculty)

Board of Trustees

Dr. Dawn Green (Area 2), President
Zurich Lewis (Area 7), Vice President
Dr. Shin Liu (Area 5), Clerk
James Cody Birkey (Area 3), Trustee
Mariana Pacheco (Area 1), Trustee
Mariana Rios (Area 4), Trustee
Dr. Sandra Salazar, (Area 6), Trustee
Carmela Fabian, Student Trustee

Distinguished People

Men's soccer coaching staff, **Benny Artiaga**, **Chris Lekavich**, **George Artiaga**, **Alex Diaz**, **Tony Leone**, **Jeffrey Payeras** and **Arna Kilikarslan**, were named national Staff of the Year

Dustin Kirk — women's wrestling head coach, named CCCAA Coach of the Year for the third consecutive year

Jannet Malig — director of Advanced Transportation and Logistics and statewide sector navigator, was inducted to the Clean Cities coalitions' 2023 Hall of Fame and received the Benjamin Watson Inspirational Award

Christina Fernández — photography professor, named 75 Latinx Artists to Know by *ARTnews*

Dr. Francie Quaas-Berryman — English professor, was among the 10 winners nationwide of the 2023 Social Learning Innovator Awards

Special Recognitions

Falcon's Nest — A centralized network of resources that support **meeting students' basic needs** including food, clothing, hygiene support, emergency aid resources, and housing resources, among other services. Its offerings include **The Village**, California's first community college housing development exclusively for students facing homelessness, and **Franco's Market**, a free campus food pantry with an assortment of healthy, fresh food and vegetables. The Falcon's Nest was selected as a national finalist for the 2024 Bellwether Awards.

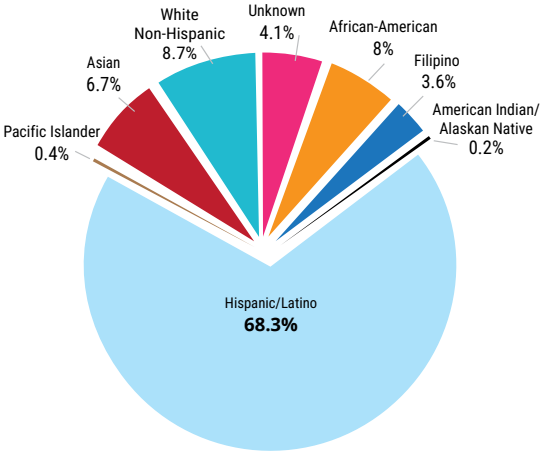
Bachelor's Degree in Dental Hygiene — The new bachelor's degree program in dental hygiene allows students to earn a four-year degree for less than $11,000 – a fraction of the tuition at a four-year university, helping students obtain an advanced degree with little to no college debt and increasing the communities' social and upwards mobility.

Cerritos Complete — Cerritos Complete is the College's official California Promise Program that provides high school seniors from the college's partner districts and schools two years of college – free. The program also provides student support services including one-on-one counseling, early enrollment, and financial aid to help students succeed. Cerritos Complete won the 2018 Examples of Excelencia Award (associate level), and was selected as a finalist for the 2018 Bellwether Award. Since its inception in 2015, the program has served over 2,500 students.

Early College Program provides high school students with a debt-free head start. Students can take Cerritos College courses directly on their high school campuses, earning up to two years of transferable credit without paying tuition or purchasing textbooks. Since 2021, enrollment has grown nearly tenfold. Latino participation has climbed to 72 percent, with a 94 percent course success rate and retention rates above 90 percent. Hundreds of first-generation students are graduating from college sooner, saving thousands, and proving that higher education can begin right at home.

Green Cerritos Campus Sustainability Initiatives — The District is creating a campus environment that fosters sustainability through conscious decision-making strategies. The College received Green Technology Magazine's Green Community College Leadership Award for reducing its water consumption by using reclaimed water for landscape irrigation. The California Community Colleges/Investor Owned Utilities (CCC/IOU) partnership selected the College for a pilot study to develop a Campus Energy Master Plan. The College received the California Community Colleges Board of Governors 2017 Energy and Sustainability Award for its Science Building retro-commissioning project that is saving the campus $25,000 in energy cost annually.

Student Ethnicity (Spring 2026)



In addition, the college is home to more than 81 international students representing 19 countries.

Public Relations & Communications
July 2026



The men's soccer team was named United Soccer Coaches National Champions



The college celebrated 70 years of excellence with the Rev'd Up Since '55 community car show

Highlights

- Earned double Bellwether Awards finalist honors for Early College and General Motors Automotive Service Education Program
- Ranked #1 in Los Angeles County and #10 in California for return on investment (ROI) in higher education by the College Futures Foundation and The HEA Group
- Earned the title of #1 in California and #6 in the nation among twoyear Hispanic-Serving Institutions in *Washington Monthly* 's Best Colleges for Hispanic Students ranking
- The General Motors Automotive Service Education Program won the 2025 Examples of Excelencia award for excellence in promoting Latino student success
- Earned prestigious Seal of *Excelencia* certification for excelling in Latino student success
- Honored twice as a finalist for the 2024 Examples of *Excelencia* award for NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars and The Village
- The Falcon's Nest was named a national finalist for the prestigious Bellwether Award
- Ranked 19th with the number of associate degrees awarded to Hispanic students in the United States in 2023

District Communities

The District includes the communities of Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs, and South Gate

Serving Students from

- ABC Unified School District
- Bellflower Unified School District
- Downey Unified School District
- Norwalk–La Mirada Unified School District
- and students throughout Southern California

Member of 10 Chambers of Commerce

Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Lakewood, La Mirada, Norwalk, Paramount, Santa Fe Springs, and South Gate

Grants Awarded

- Secured a $1.25 million Equal Representation in Construction Apprenticeship (ERiCA) grant from the California Department of Industrial Relations to break barriers for women in construction
- Economic Development expands opportunities for workers and employers with a new $850,000 workforce training grant from the California Employment Training Panel (ETP)

  Received a $1.25 million Equal Representation in Construction Apprenticeship (ERiCA) Grant from the State of California Department of Industrial Relations in 2025
- Awarded a five-year, $3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education through its Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions program to implement the new Mentoring, Access, Data, and Equity (MADE) project
- Economic Development received a $500,000 grant from the California Employment Training Panel to provide employee training to assist local and regional employers
- The Nursing Program received a $480,000 Song-Brown Program Registered Nursing Education Program Award
- Secured a $1 million gift commitment to establish the first community college endowed Jain scholar
- Advanced Transportation and Logistics Center (ATL) received a $1.5 million Clean Transportation Grant from the California Energy Commission to prepare a skilled clean energy workforce
- Teacher TRAC, in partnership with the Columbia Memorial Space Center, received $274,583 in grants from the National Science Foundation for its new BE-STELLAR program to prepare underserved college students to become STEM educators in spring 2020
- Alumnus late John B. Smith, Jr. gave a $2.3 million estate gift for woodworking scholarships
- Teacher TRAC received more than $1 million in gifts to prepare future educators

www.cerritos.edu
11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk CA 90650
(562) 860-2451

CERRITOS COLLEGE | Public Relations & Communications