

**Dr. Jose Fierro**  
**President's Message**  
**January 16, 2017**

Dear Colleagues:

Welcome back to campus! I hope that you had a great holiday season and were able to enjoy some much-needed time off. I'm excited about 2017 and all of the possibilities for growth and progress that a new year brings. Before we get too far into the year, I wanted to make sure you had a chance to see our [2016 campus highlights and accomplishments](#). I'm sure you'll agree that we had a pretty impressive 2016! I am looking forward to many more campus accomplishments this year. Below are a few updates I wanted to share as we kick-off the New Year:

### ***Campus Master Plan***

Earlier this week, I emailed an invitation to participate in our [Educational Master Plan](#) workshop. This plan will effectively guide all the other strategic planning that happens on our campus. We'd like your feedback. **Please join us on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Cerritos College Student Center.** We will be hosting a full day of planning that will be an intensive session in which all stakeholders will collaborate on a vision for further developing our Educational Master Plan. Don't forget to follow the link provided and **RSVP by Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/rsvpEMPCharette>**. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. An agenda and meeting materials will be sent a week in advance of the meeting for your review. Your participation is essential to the process and we are looking forward to having you involved.

### ***Standard Operating Procedures***

Preliminary focus group data from this year's initial Educational Master Plan activities show a common theme: the campus community has a desire to have improved processes. I couldn't agree more. Part of our work to streamline and improve our processes starts with writing them down, making them official and clearly communicating them. There is often confusion about how to handle many of our common processes and tasks as they tend to differ from department to department. It is pretty clear that we need official standard operating procedures so that we can improve our processes. Having written procedures in place ensures continuity and eliminates confusion, helping us to be more organized and more efficient. We can start by identifying some of our everyday processes and then begin to standardize them. As a first step in this process, I've asked all of the vice presidents and Public Affairs to identify gaps in our procedures relating to some of the campus' most common practices in their respective areas.

### ***Microsoft Office 365 Email Migration***

As promised, we have been working diligently on finding a way to improve our email system and increase your storage capacity. At the end of the fall semester we began testing the possibility of migrating our email accounts to Microsoft Office 365. We have been testing a number of email accounts, including my own, and I am happy to report that our IT department, under the leadership of Patrick O'Donnell, has done a tremendous job of working out the bugs in the new system. Very soon we will send you a migration schedule. The even better news is that you will have 50GB of storage capacity in your Cerritos College email, which is a tremendous improvement from the 2GB we currently have. My thanks to our IT team for their hard work on this initiative, and their drive to improve our campus IT services.

### ***Golden Globe Awards***

Please give our culinary arts students, Chefs Pierini and Lopez a big round of applause for another trip to the Golden Globe Awards. Last weekend, 24 of our culinary arts students were invited back to the Golden Globe Awards – making three years in a row -- to help prepare meals for Hollywood's stars. In fact, our students were paid \$15 per hour over the course of three days

and had the chance to work alongside some of the best professional cooking staff around. Chef Pierini tells me that our students helped prepare 14,000 meals and generated over \$1 million in food revenue in one day. Students also helped with four after-parties, including HBO, InStyle Magazine, Amazon.com and Dick Clark. There is no doubt that our culinary arts program is unrivaled. Great job, culinary arts!

### ***Fine Arts and Math/CIS Building***

As you are aware, we just opened our two newest buildings. I had the opportunity to walk the buildings during the first week of school and was highly impressed with the quality and the feel of our new facilities. The buildings feel modern, inviting and professional. The formal opening of the buildings is scheduled for February 15, 2017. I want to thank our faculty, classified team members, and managers for their patience throughout the moving process; everyone has been extremely helpful and flexible.

### ***In Closing***

In observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday today, I found the following quote: *‘The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.’* I stand with the Cerritos College value of “Celebrating Diversity in people, philosophies, cultures, beliefs, programs and learning environments; promoting respect and trust in all People be they students, community members, and employees; fostering Integrity as the foundation for all that we do.” Please know the District and I welcome *all* of you on campus and we are proud to have you. We will continue striving to make our campus a welcoming and safe place for all. As Dr. King said, “We all came in on different ships, but we’re all in the same boat now.” Regardless of the journey that brought you to Cerritos College, we now share the common goals of providing the best possible experience for our students, improving the community we serve, and contributing to the positive culture of our college.

We have many goals to accomplish and lots of exciting work ahead. I am looking forward to working closely with all you to make sure we continue to provide our students with everything they need to succeed.

Here is to a happy, healthy, and productive 2017!

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