

**Dr. Jose Fierro**  
**President's Message**  
**April 24, 2017**

Dear Colleagues:

I would like to provide you with a brief campus update:

***Budget talk in Sacramento***

Throughout April, the Assembly and Senate budget subcommittees will continue to consider the Governor's budget proposal and evaluate its alignment to their respective fiscal priorities. While final actions are not expected until May, both houses have conveyed similar inquiries and questions:

- How does the Guided Pathways proposal differ from other student success programs?
- How do community colleges support students who are military veterans?
- What are colleges doing to increase enrollment?
- Why did the Administration set the Prop 98 split so that colleges receive 10.87% of funding, instead of the usual 10.93%?
- Only about 56% of community college instruction is delivered by full-time faculty. What can be done to increase this percentage?
- The Chancellor's Office has approved 29 capital outlay projects which could receive Prop 51 funding. Why did the Administration limit the number of projects to five?

These questions provide insight into some of the priorities members will include in their final proposal. The Assembly and Senate have also indicated interest in college affordability, with the Assembly unveiling its Degrees Not Debt budget proposal last month. The Senate is also expected to release a proposal around addressing financial assistance to students.

**Around Campus**

As many of you know, this is a very busy time at Cerritos College. The end of the semester can be stressful, but it is also extremely rewarding. I would like to thank everyone who participated the Festival of Asian Cultures held on April 19. The event was a great success that brought together more than 600 community members and students from diverse cultures showcasing performances, activity booths, workshops, free food, giveaways and prizes. Special thanks to Toni Grijalva and the whole team who worked on making this event incredible.

We hosted more than 1,000 local high school students during our annual Senior Preview Day. This event is essential for introducing high school students to our campus and informing them about the services we provide. With enrollment in decline statewide, events like this are vital so that we can share information about our great programs and generate interest in what we have to offer. I would like to thank Shirley Arceo, Elizabeth Miller and all of the college student volunteers and peer counselors who worked hard to make the event successful.

I would also like to thank David Betancourt, the Academic Excellence Committee, and the Foundation for planning the annual Academic Excellence Awards held on Thursday, March 30. It was great to recognize student scholarship and award winners for their outstanding achievements and celebrate with their families. I would also like to thank faculty for supporting their students and accompanying the winners. This event is one of many examples of how Cerritos College continues to serve as a student-centered organization. The level of student engagement on this campus is second to none and I am proud of all the work we do to enhance student achievement. You can view the full list of scholarship and award winners online.

Another very special campus event was the recognition ceremony for our Court to College (C2C)

students. Scholarships were awarded for the first time to C2C students who are succeeding both academically and personally. In fact, one of our C2C students actually commented, “I never thought that I would get a scholarship, so it felt really good because I didn’t think they recognize this kind of work coming from a court to college student, so it was nice.” C2C is an innovative partnership led by Cerritos College and the Norwalk Superior Court since January 2016 that allows student who are first-time, non-violent offenders an opportunity to attend college as a condition of their probation requirements. C2C offers very tight wrap-around services for these students, including career planning, guidance, counseling, books, tuition and transportation. You may recall that the college’s first program of this kind was called ACCESS First led by retired Judge Peter Espinoza and former counselor Marcelino Saucedo in the early 2000s. Programs like C2C make a difference and I am proud that we celebrate them at Cerritos College.

On another note, I am pleased to share that our Pharmacy Technology program was recently reaccredited without recommendations. Additionally, join me in congratulating Bob Livingston, Yvette Tafoya, and Andrea Wittig for receiving the John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award from the League for Innovation in the Community College, a consortium of more than 750 community colleges and universities worldwide. The award recognizes community college employees that exemplify exceptional teaching and leadership. Well done!

Lastly, full campus participation in honoring our faculty, staff and students is important to the entire campus community. I encourage you to attend a few upcoming campus celebrations, including the Distinguished Faculty Awards Ceremony on April 27 at 11:00 a.m., Commencement on May 19 at 6:00 p.m., and the Outstanding Classified Employees Awards Ceremony on May 25 at 11:00 a.m.

We have many more accomplishments to list, but if I keep writing, this email will get way too long...

I want to give a special thank you to our CSEA staff for making sure everything works like a Swiss watch during these events, and for the support that each of you provide to our students, faculty and managers every day.

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