

Dr. Jose Fierro
President's Message
June 25, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

I wanted to provide you with a brief update on a few important items:

Budget

During last Wednesday's Board meeting, the Board received an overview of the tentative budget for 2017-18. The tentative budget is based on the governor's revised budget passed on May 11, 2017. The unrestricted general fund currently shows the District with a \$5.4 million budget deficit. This is based on a few key assumptions, including decreases in enrollment (down 1,000 FTES) and COLA, and rising expenses such as the District's financial obligations to STRS and PERS, and staff salary increases. Yes, we have some obvious challenges as we face the new budget year, but we are looking at a wide range of opportunities to chip away at our budget shortfalls. Several ideas will be presented at our Planning & Budget meetings over the next several months as we move to adopt our final budget in September. All of these efforts are necessary to help us tighten our belt strap and lower spending. Please know that I understand how the budget may cause some level of anxiety, but we are working diligently to balance the budget so that we can remain the financially strong district that we have consistently been over the years. More importantly, we all will have to collectively share the weight of the budget impact until we are able to increase revenue.

La Mirada Adult School Location

This fall, the District will be expanding its services further into the community. The District will offer English and math courses to residents across the Eastern portion of the District at the La Mirada Adult School located at 15920 Barbata Road, La Mirada, CA 90638 (at the corner of Alondra Boulevard at Barbata Road). We are hopeful that by offering classes in the La Mirada location that we can help increase FTES and drive more direct engagement with our neighbors. Bringing much-needed resources to the heart of La Mirada will give residents more access to education. Within the coming months, we will finalize logistics and plan for a small opening ceremony. More details to follow.

ACCJC Accreditation

During the ACCJC June 7-9, 2017 meeting, our midterm report and evidence were reviewed. After our materials were reviewed, ACCJC found Cerritos College to be in full compliance and our accreditation status was ratified with no recommendations. Our next self-evaluation is scheduled to occur Spring 2020. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication to our institution. It is clear that without a collective effort we would not have been able to meet accreditation standards; again, thank you. As we gear up for the spring of 2020, it is important to maintain our focus on student learning and student achievement in order to demonstrate our commitment to continuous improvement.

I hope that you are enjoying your summer, and I hope that you will take this time to do something that you enjoy. The new fall semester will be here sooner than you know it, so make your plans and have a great summer!

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