

Jose Fierro, D.V.M., Ph.D.
[President's Message](#)
October 2, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

I can't believe we are almost halfway done with the fall semester and preparing for the summer semester already. The fall semester always goes by quickly, but it is a very rewarding time of the year. As we plan for next year, please feel free to reach out and provide me with feedback and recommendations. Thanks to your suggestions and feedback in the past, I have been able to make adjustments during the year and learn more about the college and our community.

Faculty Negotiations

During the last Board meeting, the Board of Trustees approved a permanent contract for the faculty. The Board and CCFE came to a tentative agreement on August 15, 2016. While at times the process was challenging for all of us, we are happy that negotiations are behind us and glad to move forward. We will continue to move ahead with our student success and completion strategies to help improve access to affordable, quality, education and job training, working together to ensure a strong future for Cerritos College, our students, and the Community.

Budget Forums

Over the past several weeks, we have been heavily focused on the campus budget and its current and projected implications. Following the Budget Forums presentation on September 20, I can understand how some of you may have more questions or feel a little concerned about the budget projections over the next three years. By all accounts, there is no immediate cause for concern. The budget projection shows that while we are stable, we have some work to do in the coming years to stay financially strong. We as a campus have to put our collective heads together and develop strategies to increase our enrollment, maximize our budgets, and identify additional sources of revenue. We have some great ideas and plans already in place to make sure our enrollment stays strong by focusing on high-demand courses, online and hybrid classes, dual-enrollment, and weekend classes, to name some. We also have plans to retain our current students with additional resources and services they need to transfer and earn a certificate or degree, including our Finish First initiative, which targets and supports students who are only a class away from graduating or completing a their academic program. There are creative ways we can increase revenue, like expanding our Economic Development Division and contracting with more businesses to offer a variety of services, including customized training for their workforce. As you know, the budgets for the subsequent years will continue to evolve based on a number of internal and external factors, but by anticipating future budget needs and planning now, we will be prepared for any changes.

Vice President Searches

I am happy to report that we are narrowing our search to fill the Vice President of Business Services and Vice President of Human Resources positions. Next week, we will conduct interviews for the Vice President of Business Services position on October 4 and 6. Finalists' forums will be held on campus on October 17 and final interviews will take place on October 18. Regarding the Vice President of Human Resources, interviews will take place on October

11. Campus forums for finalist will be held on October 24 and final interviews take place on October 25. I hope you can make the time to come and meet the candidates during the forums and provide your informal feedback to the committees. We still need to advertise the Vice-President of Academic Affairs position. I am planning to advertise the position in November and begin the screening of applicants in January. This will allow us to transition to the permanent Vice President of Academic Affairs at the end of the spring semester (May). Vice President Joel will be forming the search committee for the Vice President of Academic Affairs in the upcoming weeks. If you want to be part of this process, please be sure to speak with your group representatives.

Educational Master Plan

As many of you know, we need to update our educational master plan. A committee composed of constituents from all employee groups selected a consulting firm to assist us with the development of our next educational master plan. The Board of Trustees recently approved the committee's selection and we will be moving to the next steps in the following weeks. The educational master plan committee will be meeting with the consultants October 7th and once a frame has been developed, it will be shared with the campus community. As I mentioned previously, I am looking for us to develop a document that is usable and contains actionable initiatives, focused on student success and completion as we define it.

Fine Arts Center and Computer information Systems / Mathematics Building

I had the opportunity to once again tour these two buildings last week and I am impressed. The learning spaces are state of the art, warm, and architecturally pleasing. I am looking forward to seeing the buildings completed and our students in their new classrooms, labs, and studios. I would like to recognize all the faculty, staff and managers who have been involved in the design and planning of these buildings. Excellent work, thank you.

Thank you for reading and if you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me. Let's continue to work together and finish this semester strong

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