

Dr. Jose Fierro
President's Message
February 25, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

Below please find information a couple of campus events and the state budget.

Celebrating Diversity

One of the best parts of Cerritos College is the open and collaborative way that we celebrate diversity on campus. On February 14, I had the privilege of welcoming Dr. Maulana Karenga, the internationally known creator of Kwanza, to campus as part of our Black History Month celebration. Dr. Karenga is highly regarded around the world for his teachings on equality. After listening to his lecture, I was captivated by Dr. Karenga's passion and candor, his views about our shared humanity, and the importance of inclusion. Dr. Karenga's presentation was inspiring, challenging and enlightening. It was an honor to have him on campus.

I am also excited that the College is celebrating its 31st annual Women's History Month. The festivities kicked-off this month with more than **60 events** planned for the month of May. The events are designed to celebrate the accomplishments of women and explore the struggles women face toward equality.

Diversity is a core value for Cerritos College. As a campus, we believe diversity makes us stronger. When we celebrate our unique differences, we quickly learn that we have more in common. Thank you to the Black History Month and Women's History Month planning committees for bringing engaging events to campus. I strongly encourage you to check both calendars ([BHM](#) / [WHM](#)) and join the festivities.

State Funding Formula

As you know, the chancellor and the governor proposed a new funding formula. The new proposal has been highly controversial with comments and concerns from multiple groups in the state. The intent of this new approach to funding colleges is to propose a student-focused apportionments formula that encourages access for underrepresented students, provides additional funding in recognition of the need to provide additional support for low-income students, rewards colleges' progress on improving student success metrics, and improves overall equity and predictability so that districts may more readily plan and implement instruction and programs. In other words, there will be a larger focus on metrics and performance. This is not necessarily a bad approach, but as we well know, the devil is in the details.

Last year, in collaboration with a few President/Superintendents, we created the Single Campus District Caucus. This group was developed to address issues that impact single campus districts, and our first big task is to do our best to ensure that single colleges are treated fairly in using this new formula. We have been actively meeting and analyzing all available information. The first draft of the formula shows Cerritos College losing 1 million dollars in funding. Obviously is not good news for us, however, this is the first draft of the formula. I am currently working at the state level with other presidents and community college constituents to ensure we are treated fairly under this new approach. I will keep you informed as I learn more.

Below, please find a short summary of what the formula may look like.

Base Grants (50% of the formula) — District base grants based on FTES enrollment.

Supplemental Grants (25% of the formula) — Supplemental grants based on the number of low-income students that the district enrolls reflecting two factors:

- 1) enrollment of students who receive a College Promise Grant fee waiver (formerly known as the BOG Waiver) and
- 2) enrollment of students that receive a Pell Grant.

Student Success Incentive Grants (25% of the formula) — Additional funding for:

- 1) the number of degrees and certificates granted and
- 2) the number of students who complete a degree or certificate in 3 years or less,
- 3) funds for each Associate Degree for Transfer granted by the college.

Hold Harmless Provision — During the first year of implementation, districts would be held harmless to 2017-18 levels. Meaning we will not feel the impact of the formula during the first year of its implementation

Employee Giving

Last Wednesday, February 14th, we hosted the kick-off event of the first-ever internal giving campaign. I wanted to take another opportunity to thank everyone who participated in the Employee Giving Campaign Kick-off event. I hope you all enjoyed the games, lunch, and entertainment as much as I did. The goal of the Employee Giving Campaign is to help raise funds toward our major gifts campaign (Finish Great) to raise \$12 million for student scholarships and college success programs. The Employee Giving Campaign will be active through March 31. We hope to have 100% participation. Thank you for your contribution and for helping our students to Finish Great.

No Students Go Hungry

Food insecurity is a reality for many of our students. In fact, approximately **80%** of Cerritos College students could qualify for the state's [CalFresh](#) program for low-income residents. To address this issue, the College established a Food and Housing Insecurity Taskforce last summer. The Taskforce coordinates a No Students Go Hungry food distribution event in partnership with the L.A. Food Bank and CalFresh. Since December 2017, the L.A. Food Bank has visited campus five times and provided **free food for nearly 1,600 students and community members**. More food distribution events are planned for **February 28 and March 28, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.**, and **March 20, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.** Additionally, the campus Food Pantry gives students another avenue to obtain food. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a great week.

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