

Dr. Jose Fierro
President's Message
March 30, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to share a few great updates from the month of March.

New Agreements Give Students a Chance to Study Abroad

I am happy to share the College is participating in the 2018 Taiwan Experience Education Program. Last year, 11 Cerritos College students participated in the study abroad program in Taiwan. This year, Cerritos College and the Taiwanese government entered into new agreements that give current Cerritos College students and recent graduates an opportunity to teach English to elementary school children in Taiwan. The Taipei City government is funding the project that provides students with a tuition free, all-expenses paid internship. Our students will serve as Teacher's Aides at elementary schools in Taipei, New Taipei City and Tainan City. Students can also take courses offered by Taipei University.

Our students often times do not have the means or ability to travel beyond their own local area. With the Taiwan Experience Education Program, the College has an exciting opportunity to give students a once-in-a-life-time cultural experience abroad. The more opportunities we provide students to become global citizens, the more competitive they become. Giving students a chance to see the world and learn from other cultures will have a lasting effect on their academic development. If you are aware of students who might be good candidates for this opportunity, please provide them the link to [the website for more information](#).

Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion

The College hosted over 30 staff and students at the Safe Zone Lunch and Learn Workshop titled, "Trans-Minded: A Deeper Understanding of Transgender and Gender Diverse Students," which explored various aspects of LGBTQ+ experiences in an effort to build more inclusive communities for individuals of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

The Women's and Gender Studies Department challenges us to fight all forms of gender discrimination. The Women's History Month planning committee, led by Professor Ana Torres-Bower, have put forth a tremendous effort to host a number of thought-provoking events throughout the month of March. Be sure to check out the [Women's History Month program](#) to learn more; events will continue through April.

Updates on the Lot at 166th Street and Studebaker Road

The College recently hosted a quarterly community forum to update residents about the transformation to the lot at 166th Street and Studebaker Road. As you may recall, last fall the Cerritos City Council approved a four-year Temporary Use Permit (TUP) that authorizes the College to convert the property into an automobile storage facility. Subsequently, the Board of Trustees passed a resolution on September 6, 2017 to address issues raised by residents and the City, including dust and light mitigation, hours of operation, loading of vehicles, security, and landscaping. All of those concerns have been addressed and the College continues to work very closely with the City of Cerritos to meet the requirements outlined in the TUP. The next community forum will be held during the summer.

Hall of Fame Visits the Waldorf Astoria was a Great Success

This year's Hall of Fame was a great success. Three hundred friends of the College enjoyed an evening inspired by 1940's New York, featuring a live auction, and music by the Tony Guerrero Band and Cerritos College Jazz Trio. We inducted eight new honorees into the Hall of Fame. A big round of applause for the Cerritos College Foundation, President's Office, Public Affairs and Culinary Arts staff for their hard work in making this wonderful event successful.

WPMD's National Awards

Please join me in congratulating WPMD for being named America's Best Community College Radio Station by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS). Students, staff and faculty from the journalism department traveled to IBS's 78th Annual International Conference in New York earlier this month. This is the fourth time in five years the station was nominated for the 'Best Station' award. In addition, WPMD's urban contemporary music and talk show *The Energy Hour*, hosted by students Valerie Castrillon, Audrey Valdivia and Alysha Hardrick, was named the Most Creative Show. WPMD has received more than 20 nominations for national awards over the last five years. [Congratulations WPMD!](#)

Sold-Out Future of Work MeetUp

The College partnered with the Southeast Los Angeles Workforce Development Board to co-host the *Future of Work MeetUp* on March 5. Speakers at the sold-out event explored a range of topics related to technology's impact on the job skills needed for workers to thrive in the state's ever changing economy. Potential solutions offered to address and improve training for competitive jobs focused on workers who do not have a college degree or career certificate. Topics of interest also included the governor's proposed online college project aimed at connecting hard-to-reach populations with technical skills to give them more competitive job prospects. You can read more about the event in a [report](#) by California Forward.

Please feel free to let me know if you have any feedback, questions or concerns. Have a great weekend!

Best,

Jose Fierro, D.V.M., Ph.D.

President/Superintendent