

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

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you find my April campus update to be informative and inspiring.

Celebrating Diversity and Culture

I hope you had an opportunity to attend last week's Festival of Asian Cultures. It was truly a great celebration of diversity, inclusion and community. The College hosted 200+ guests, including students, staff, community members, local businesses and our chamber partners who enjoyed a variety of food vendors, demonstrations, dancers and live entertainment. With these special cultural events, it is always encouraging to see how our mission of diversity is embraced in such a creative, engaging and collaborative way. The Festival has quickly evolved into a bright spot for the College with a growing excitement for an even larger celebration. As you know, planning events of this size is always a lot of hard work. I would like to recognize and thank all of the staff, community members, student clubs, and volunteers who made the Festival a great success. I am already looking forward to next year.

Focusing on Student Success

Please join me in congratulating our men's and women's tennis teams who each won the CCCAA Team Dual State Championship. This is the men's first-ever title. For the women's team, the championship is their second title in the last three years. A men's and women's double-win is very rare – our teams are the second school in the state to accomplish this feat in the history of the CCCAA. Go Falcons!

I am equally excited about our dental hygiene students' 100% pass rate on the National Board exam. At the end of two intense years of dental hygiene coursework, students take the rigorous, all-day National Board exam. What's more impressive is for the past 45 years, over 1,000 students have had a nearly perfect pass rate of 99.51% on the overall state exam. This is an incredible legacy that is a testament to the strength and commitment of our faculty and staff. Well done!

It always gives me great pride to share the many student success stories. Cerritos College students are some of the best and brightest who come to our campus to realize their dreams. Alumna Diana A. Yanez was named a 2018 recipient of the Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans, a premier graduate school fellowship for immigrants and children of immigrants. Diana was among 30 fellows selected from a pool of 1,766 applicants for her potential to make significant contributions to U.S. society, culture, and her academic field (STEM). Diana will receive up to \$90,000 in funding for her M.D.-Ph.D. degrees at Yale University. She joins a prestigious community of recipients from past years, including former U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, Lieutenant Governor Cyrus Habib of Washington, and nearly 600 other New American leaders.

On April 7, I was honored to join the American Association of University Women's (AAUW) 25th Anniversary Awards Brunch where six Cerritos College students received scholarships. I appreciate the strong partnership we have with the La Palma AAUW branch. Thank you to Norma Rodriguez, director of Student Program Services, and her staff for coordinating the event. Norma serves as an active member of AAUW and the College's liaison to the La Palma Cerritos AAUW branch.

Jannet Malig Named Statewide Sector Navigator for Advanced Transportation & Logistics

I'm thrilled that Jannet Malig was named Sector Navigator for Advanced Transportation & Logistics by the Chancellor's Office Workforce and Economic Development division. As many of you know, Jannet currently serves as director of the Advanced Transportation Technology & Renewable (ATTR) Center here at Cerritos College. Since 2012, she has served as the Deputy Sector Navigator for the Los Angeles and Orange County regions. As Sector Navigator, Jannet will help advance targeted cornerstones for success by working with colleges, including Cerritos College, to help improve guided pathways, and expand for-credit CTE programs to address opportunities in the job market. Among other areas, she will also help raise career awareness for high school and community college students and focus on closing equity gaps. Additionally, Jannet will concentrate on the Doing What Matters Framework for the Chancellor's Office to develop a strong workforce for 21st century careers. Her role is critical to the College's efforts to align curriculum development to emerging occupations with industry and governmental organizations. This is a well-deserved promotion. Congratulations, Jannet!

Preparing Future Teachers through Dual Enrollment

Cerritos College hosted more than 60 high school and college counselors, faculty, and administrators at the Teacher Preparation Pathways Dual Enrollment Conference this month. Dual enrollment has become a critical part of the College's ability to increase early student engagement. The conference highlighted the alignment between College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP/AB 288) with a focus on teacher preparation. Participants learned how to develop partnerships with districts to create shared initiatives that support students interested in teaching. Cerritos College is a model campus for dual enrollment, and is considered a "mentor college" in the L.A. Regional TEACH Collaborative, a regional Strong Workforce project. A special thanks to the Educational Partnerships & Programs team for all of their hard work.

Budget Update

Concerns about the state budget still persist. In its current form, the College stands to lose nearly \$1 million in its first year and close to \$5 million over a four-year period if the governor's proposed funding formula is adopted. We will continue to closely monitor the budget and provide you with an update. I am hoping to receive additional information regarding the budget around to May 12.

Finals

Starting May 1-3, ASCC will host its Stress Less Week to help students manage their worries about final exams. As the semester ends, we could all stand to learn from our students and adopt a few more strategies to help us decompress. I encourage you to take a step back, take a deep breath, and remember that we can only do our best work when we have optimal health.

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