

Dr. Jose Fierro
President's Message
August 6, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

Below, please find my July campus update.

Strawberry Field Conversion

During its July 19th meeting, the Board approved an agreement with Norm Reeves Honda Cerritos for the use of facilities (pgs. 541 – 553 from the Board book) for a four-year term to lease the land formerly occupied by Manassero Farms. The District will receive a monthly rent payment of \$35,500 for facility usage, which provides 20 times more revenue than the previous lease. Norm Reeves is scheduled to take possession of the lot August 14th. As part of the agreement, Norm Reeves Honda will make an annual contribution to the Cerritos College Foundation to support student scholarships. We are excited to partner with Norm Reeves, especially considering that this could provide additional opportunities for our automotive program students.

Celebrating the Opening of the New La Mirada Location

You are invited to join us for an opening reception for our new classroom location in the City of La Mirada located at the Norwalk La Mirada Adult School. The District will offer high-demand English, math, and speech classes closer to La Mirada residents. The ceremony will take place on Wednesday, August 30th at 4 p.m. at the La Mirada location (15920 Barbata Road, La Mirada, CA 90638). We are happy that the District will be able to expand its services to more residents across the eastern portion of the District. As of right now, our classes at the La Mirada location are filling fast. This is a good start for this initiative and we are hoping it translates into an increase in FTES. Courses at the La Mirada location start September 5, 2017:

<http://cms.cerritos.edu/lamirada/>

Cerritos Complete (A Promise Program)

Since its launch in fall 2016, Cerritos Complete served as an extension of the K-16 Bridge program, which was heavily focused on increasing graduation rates for our students. Today, Cerritos Complete has been fully adopted as the College's official Promise Program to target district high school students to increase degree and certificate completion rates, reduce time to graduation by lowering the number of excess units completed. Cerritos Complete allows eligible students graduating from any of the College's service area high school districts, including Paramount Unified School District, to participate. Students entering Cerritos Complete earn a free year of college with the cost of tuition waived by the District. While traditional Promise Programs emphasize student access to college, there is generally less attention given to degree attainment and program completion. Cerritos Complete fills in the gap and expands access to include completion with a direct pathway for students to finish their educational goals that includes strong support services such as counseling, financial aid, and more.

Cerritos Complete is gaining popularity! On July 13th, incoming students spent a day on campus to enroll and become familiar with our resources. That day, nearly 500 students enrolled. When the fall semester begins, the College will welcome its third cohort of Cerritos Complete with 776 new students. In total, 1,243 students have participated in Cerritos Complete. There will be an official kick-off event on August 9 at 10 a.m. in the Student Center. A very special thank you to the entire Education Partnerships Program staff for their tireless efforts to advance Cerritos Complete and raise awareness across our local high schools.

Legislation

As you may know, during the summer we have been tracking some pieces of legislation that we feel could make the lives of our students better. Below, please find a few of the bills we have been tracking and supporting.

AB 17 would create a Transit Pass Program that provides free and reduced-cost transit passes to middle school and high school students eligible for funding under Title 1 of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, community college recipients of the Board of Governors fee waiver, and Cal Grant and/or Pell Grant recipients at UC and CSU campuses. The bill identifies the California Department of Transportation as the program administrator, and the department would be required to report on whether the program increases transit ridership among students.

AB 214 directs the California Department of Social Services to review and establish protocols that improve access for low-income students to enroll in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) also known as CalFresh. The bill would also require the California Student Aid Commission to notify students receiving state grants of their eligibility for CalFresh.

AB 705 would require a community college to use high school transcript data in the assessment and assignment of students to English and mathematics coursework by August 1, 2018. The goal of AB 705 is to maximize completion of remedial college-level coursework in English and mathematics within a one-year timeframe, including concurrent support for courses enrolled in English and mathematics during the semester.

SB 577 would authorize BOG, in consultation with the California State University and the University of California, to authorize a community college district to offer a teacher-credentialing program.

Don't forget to mark your calendar!

Convocation for fall 2017 is scheduled for *August 31st at 11 a.m.* in Burnight Theatre. We have a great program prepared for you to help us kick off the new academic year. I am looking forward to the first day of classes! The first day/week of classes is a busy time for all of us, but it is one of my favorite times of the year. I enjoy seeing our students walking the hallways and running from class to class, and I am always proud to see all of you working so diligently to welcome our students and make sure all of their needs are met. For that, I thank you.

Have a great week!

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