

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT/SUPERINTENDENT  
PRESIDENT'S CAMPUS UPDATES



January 31, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you had a great holiday season and a lively New Year's celebration. It's hard to believe that we are off to a brand new semester. Looking back at 2018's record of success, all signs point to another incredible year. When you have an opportunity, I encourage you to take a look at our [2018 Year in Review](#) for a glimpse of our campus achievements. I am looking forward to many more accomplishments this year.

Here are a few updates I wanted to share as we begin the new semester.

### Looking Ahead to 2019

As we look ahead to this new semester, we have many opportunities and some challenges facing the growth and development of Cerritos College. We will continue to identify areas of need and make investments into the places that impact our students the most. That means creating a learning environment of excellence where students can thrive. It also means cultivating a place where faculty, staff, and managers work in a climate of mutual respect that encourages collaboration, personal and professional growth, and camaraderie.

As we look for direction this year, we will keep our focus on the [Educational Master Plan](#) as it will *guide Cerritos College in strengthening student achievement, planning for current and future needs, transforming infrastructure, and guiding resource allocation and staffing priorities*. The Educational Master Plan will continue to inform decisions about our current footprint and identify areas where we can expand and enrich our academic programs. Our goal to be more aligned and productive is one that requires active participation from all of us. As our systems and programs evolve, so will our plans to have new amenities and modern spaces. **Felipe Lopez**, Vice President of Business Services, is leading the new **Facilities Master Plan** efforts currently underway. I hope you participate in the planning meetings and provide your input.

One of the overarching goals in the [Educational Master Plan](#) is to set Cerritos College apart from other campuses. One way to stand out is for the campus to keep taking steps toward making **Cerritos College the transfer institution of choice for all students**. While the message is catchy, we have to continue work hard to move beyond the catchphrase and strengthen all areas on campus that will ensure students have the classes they need to graduate or transfer, and the resources and services to finish on time. We will all have to renew our efforts and become more student-completion focused to help students complete their educational plans – on time.

Lastly, our journey to transform Cerritos College into a 21<sup>st</sup> Century institution will also bring new opportunities for **modern campus rebranding**. This semester, we will begin to explore the best route to reimagine Cerritos College. **Miya Walker**, Director College Relations, Public Affairs, and Governmental Relations, will lead this effort.

## **Welcome Dr. Dilcie Perez**

We are very excited to welcome **Dr. Dilcie Perez**, our new Vice President of Student Services. Those of you who attended the Vice President Candidates Forums last year had an opportunity to meet Dilcie and learn about her background. Dilcie comes to Cerritos College from MiraCosta Community College District in Oceanside, CA, where she served as Dean of Student Life & Judicial Affairs for a little more than two years. She has an extensive background in all facets of student affairs. Dilcie earned a bachelor's degree from CSU San Marcos in political science, a master's degree in administration from Central Michigan University, and a doctorate in educational leadership from San Diego State University. She will be a great asset to Cerritos College. When you see Dilcie around campus, please be sure to introduce yourself. Welcome aboard, Dilcie!

## **Governor's Budget Update**

Governor Gavin Newsom's new budget proposal includes funding for several education priorities. Modifications to the budget will generally come in May. Here are a few highlights from the budget that will impact community colleges:

- Increase funding to extend the California College Promise to a second year of tuition-free college for first-time, full-time students.
- Expand the Cal Grant program to include a new grant for student parents and increase the number of competitive Cal Grants.
- \$3 billion in one-time state contributions to the State Teachers' Retirement System (STRS), thereby lowering employer contribution rates in 2019-20 and 2020-21.
- Provides \$246 million in new spending for community colleges, including a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 3.46%.
- A statewide longitudinal student data system.

## **Focusing on Wellness: 2019 Speakers Series**

Last year, **Alfred Rodriguez**, Lead Custodian, helped me launch the **2018 Fall President's Speaker Series**. The workshops were designed to help empower all employees to grow personally and professionally. I am grateful for the overwhelming response we received. This year, we are thrilled to host a new Speakers Series focusing on the **Eight Dimensions of Wellness** co-hosted by **Vince Vizcarra**, Instructional Laboratory Assistant. I believe when we bring the best version of ourselves to campus, we can better serve our students. Details for the workshops will be posted in the coming weeks.

Last year we set the bar pretty high. I am confident that 2019 will be filled with more exciting challenges and opportunities for us to exceed last year's accomplishments. I am looking forward to working closely with all you.

Wishing you a semester filled with complete wellness, productivity, and happiness!

Thanks,  
Jose

Jose Fierro, D.V.M., Ph.D.  
President/Superintendent  
Cerritos College  
11110 Alondra Boulevard  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
(562) 860-2451, extension 2204