

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT/SUPERINTENDENT  
PRESIDENT'S CAMPUS UPDATES



February 28, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

February was a busy and exciting month. Here is a recap of some of our activities.

### Campus Events and Diversity Celebrations

I had the pleasure of participating in several campus activities and diversity events in February. I began the month welcoming guests to the **Undocu Talk Open House** that focused on how the College can provide more support for undocumented students. I also attended the **Discover Umoja** and **Conversations with Michael Warr and Tucker Smallwood** poetry event (moderated by Monica Lee Copeland) for **Black History Month**. I was struck by the passion and delivery of one student poet who shared his struggles and joy during the open mic session. The **Lunar New Year** celebration sponsored by the **Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA)** team was great. I fed the dragon a red envelope of cash and sampled homemade dumplings. I'm already looking forward to next year. Rounding out the month, I served as a judge for the **2019 Tabor Venitsky Tournament Gold Round** (parliamentary debate) that showcased the tournament's top 10 debate teams, arguing about topics like whether the "gig economy" is helpful or harmful. The tournament served as a competitive preview of the major regional and national forensics championship tournaments. The event continues to grow with 265 speech and debate competitors from 19 California colleges and universities participating, including nine Cerritos College students. Finally, **Vince Vizcarra** and I kicked-off the **Spring 2019 Speakers Series: A Falcon's Guide to Wellness**, focusing on the Eight Dimensions of Wellness. The Speakers Series is designed to provide all employees with simple ways to grow personally and professionally. I encourage you to attend one of the workshops to learn a few easy ways to add wellness to your lifestyle. [You can RSVP online.](#)



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### President's Speakers Series - 21-Day Be Better Challenge

I accepted the 21-day Be Better Challenge! During last week's Wellness: The Falcon Way presentation, Vince Vizcarra challenged participants to dedicate 21 days to doing a series of squat techniques. Our goals for the challenge are to create healthy habits, build strength, endurance, and transform our minds and bodies. If you would like to participate, [visit the website for more information.](#)

Please remember to take the challenge at your own pace. Tag me on Twitter @drjferro\_ and on Instagram @cerritoscollegepres with your photos using the hashtags **#cerritosfalconfit #bebetter #cerritoscollege**. Let's Be Better together.

### Darneanna Fallins Makes PTK All-California Academic Team



I am always proud to share success stories about the academic achievements of our students. Cerritos College student Darneanna Fallins was selected to the **2019 Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic Team**. Darneanna will be honored at the 2019 PTK Awards Luncheon next month. Darneanna's major is elementary teacher education with a focus on special education. She plans to transfer to California State University, Long Beach in fall 2019. Darneanna will pursue a master's degree in social and behavioral science to enhance her studies in behavioral intervention. She hopes to teach elementary school and college-level students throughout her career. Congratulations, Darneanna!

### Two Years Free - Cerritos Complete Adds a Second Year

On February 12, we officially announced the second year of free tuition through our California Promise Program [Cerritos Complete](#). We have had an overwhelming response in the community and in the media, and have seen an increase in interest about our Promise Program. Our commitment is simple: we will cover the cost of tuition for any student who is willing to invest in their own success. Through Cerritos Complete, the College has seen a 30 percent increase in the number of degrees and certificates awarded to our students. Program participants generally outperform non-participants in units completed, persistence, and completion of entry-level math and English, among other areas. Compared to other programs, Cerritos Complete is more than a promise of free access to education. Cerritos Complete addresses both access and completion, and provides personalized support to help students graduate from college in less time. The program is growing quickly with more than 1,500 student participants from local high schools, to date. I am excited about this next phase for Cerritos Complete.



### Inaugural Student Equity and Achievement Program Planning Retreat

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central parts of our mission and values here at Cerritos College. I am proud of the progress we have made over the last few years toward removing barriers that affect diverse students and staff. To that end, we still have work to do, and **Vice Presidents Rick Miranda** and **Dilcie Perez** are leading the College's efforts to identify strategies and solutions to address gaps in student equity. On **Friday, March 1**, the College will host its inaugural **Student Equity Planning Retreat** to identify our campus priorities toward implementing equity-based programs. The outcome of this retreat will guide the Student Equity Plan that will be submitted to the Chancellor's office by June 30. If you are interested in participating, please contact Kelly Rios in Student Services at [krios@cerritos.edu](mailto:krios@cerritos.edu) or call extension 2236.

## Enrollment Update

While the College has sustained even or increased enrollment numbers for several years, this semester our enrollment is down by 6% FTES. There are a few factors that have likely contributed to this decline, including a strong job market. When jobs are plentiful, college enrollment is generally lower. Additionally, more students are enrolled part-time (a national trend) that reduces the number of full-time FTES. As such, the loss in FTES created a \$1.4 million reduction in state apportionment, based on the new funding formula. While there is more work to do to address our enrollment decline, we are not in a crisis. **Vice President of Academic Affairs, Rick Miranda** and the Enrollment Management Taskforce are working on strategies to increase student enrollment. Specifically, the College is targeting ways to strengthen our online course offerings, dual enrollment, Guided Pathways, maximization of summer classes, and adding more courses to our La Mirada classroom site at the Norwalk La Mirada Adult School.

I hope March brings you another month filled with success and wellness. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thanks,  
Jose

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