

# OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT/SUPERINTENDENT PRESIDENT'S CAMPUS UPDATES



November 7, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

October was another busy and productive month. Here are some of the highlights.

## **Falcon Day – Team Work Makes the Dream Work**

Our inaugural Falcon Day held on Friday, November 2 was a great success. I couldn't have asked for a better outcome with such strong campus participation from faculty, classified/confidential staff, and managers. This year's theme, "Team Work Makes the Dream Work," aligned our efforts to support students through a unique opportunity to bond as a campus and help each other succeed in our respective roles.



The professional development tracks featured a variety of sessions that were well-organized and creative. I am truly overwhelmed by all of the great feedback. We definitely exceeded our goals to:

- Engage in team and relationship building
- Develop communication skills and leadership
- Increase capacity for equity-minded, customer service, support, and teaching/learning
- Become more familiar with co-workers in a fun, relaxed, and engaging environment

A very special thanks to all of our volunteers who worked hard to make the day successful. I'd also like to thank CSEA President Lynn Laughon and Vice President Adriana Flores-Church for leading the charge. I can hardly wait until next year.

## **2018 State of the College**

In addition to a successful Falcon Day, we also hosted our inaugural State of the College on Monday, October 29. More than 60 community, business, and K-12 partners attended to learn more about our growing list of progress and success. The State of the College address focused on four core tenets that highlight the College's efforts to advance student success and its impact on economic growth across the region.



## **Robust Student Support Programs**

Cerritos College offers strong student support services, including mental health resources, financial aid, counseling, diversity/equity support groups, and more. We are also addressing food insecurity with the help of the L.A. Regional Food Bank that is on campus twice a month to distribute food to our campus and community. Nearly 80% of Cerritos College students could qualify for the CalFresh food assistance program. We are also advancing student achievement through the Success Center. This year, we invested \$1.7 million in tutoring hours and logged 105,795 student visits to the Success Center. Students who regularly visit the Success Center for support increase their chances of passing their classes with a C or better.

## **Student Investment and Community Partnerships**

Investing in student achievement is critical to the region's economic stability. For every \$1 of public money spent on community colleges, taxpayers receive a cumulative return of \$6.80 over the course of a student's life. Cerritos College graduates earn \$58,500 by mid-career and 60% of alumni consider their occupation as a high-meaning job.

## **Transforming the Landscape of Cerritos College**

We continue to grow with new state-of-the-art facilities and resources. To date, the District has completed eight major projects funded through Measure CC (2004) and Measure G (2012). A new Performing Arts Center and a Health and Wellness Complex are currently under construction. You can visit the website for a full list of completed projects. To maximize cost savings, during our last bond sale in 2017, the District secured a reduced interest rate that will ultimately save taxpayers about \$22.4 million.

## **Funding Student Success**

In 2016, the Cerritos College Board of Trustees allocated \$250,000 to launch Cerritos Complete, our official California Promise Program. Cerritos Complete allows eligible graduates from any high school within the District to earn a free year of college through a merit-based scholarship. To date, Cerritos Complete has served 2,500 students. Cerritos Complete was recently awarded the 2018 Examples of Excelencia Award for helping to accelerate Latino student success. The program was also selected as a finalist for the prestigious 2018 Bellwether Award. We are also partnering with the Cerritos College Foundation to develop an endowment for scholarships to meet unfunded student needs.

I'd like to thank Public Affairs, the Culinary Arts program, the GIPS Improv team, and all of the volunteers who helped to make the 2018 State of the College a great experience. A special thanks to our co-sponsors the Artesia Chamber of Commerce and the Cerritos Regional Chamber of Commerce for their support. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the Cerritos College Foundation for student scholarships.

## **Art Gallery Opening**

On Tuesday, October 30, I had the pleasure of attending the opening reception for the Cerritos College Art Gallery's new exhibitions POLYCHROMATIC MOJO: Color as Content and Time and Space: 122 Hours of Ink. I am always impressed by the level of talent on display. This season, guest curators are painting professor, Hagop Najarian and printmaking professor Sergio Teran. The Art Gallery continues to draw acclaim and distinction, and was recently named 1 of 15 top art galleries in Southern California by the L.A. Weekly. I encourage you to visit both exhibits before they close on December 7.



## Remembering Dr. Wilford Michael



I would like to thank everyone who took the time to honor Dr. Wilford Michael at our memorial tribute on Monday, October 29. All of the sympathy cards will be delivered to Dr. Michael's family on behalf of Cerritos College. He meant so much to our campus, and leaves very big shoes to fill. Dr. Michael will be greatly missed.

As we move into the final two months of the semester, let's finish November with purpose. Have a great week!

Thanks,  
Jose

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