

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT/SUPERINTENDENT PRESIDENT'S CAMPUS UPDATES



July 1, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Meet Jesus Ayala!

I learned about Jesus Ayala – a 31-year-old, single father who uses a wheelchair – at the Foundation's Scholarship Reception. Despite his near-death experience, Jesus is the recipient of the Darleene Gomez Memorial Scholarship for DSPS students. Against all odds, Jesus survived a violent crime that left him with paraplegia. For Jesus, there is no such thing as quitting or giving up. When you hear me talk about the importance of having grit and perseverance to be successful, Jesus comes to mind as someone who exemplifies what it means to fight every day to reach your goals. He's a great example for all of us. Way to go, Jesus!



Librarian Lorraine Qualifies for Her Fourth Ironman Competition in Kona

Join me in congratulating Lorraine Gersitz for qualifying for her fourth Kona Ironman World Championship! Lorraine has been running for nearly 40 years, and has participated in the Ironman races for 19 years. She will be competing in the Kona Ironman World Championship in October. Lorraine will also participate in the Half Ironman World Championship in Nice, France this September. "I cannot wait to compete in both World Championships this year," she said. "The World Championship races are a reward to myself. My goal is to enjoy and finish the race." Congratulations Lorraine, and good luck!

More than \$1 Million in Gifts to Prepare Future Educators



I'm excited to announce the Teacher TRAC program received a legacy gift of more than \$1 million to support aspiring teachers. Two educators who arranged to leave their estates to the Cerritos College Foundation made the gifts anonymously. The funds will go toward ensuring long-term continuity of the College's award-winning teacher preparation program. Additionally, an unnamed donor pledged a generous cash gift of \$100,000 to the program, adding to a total of more than \$1,100,000 in funds. For 19 years, Cerritos College's

award-winning Teacher TRAC program has prepared students to become highly qualified K-12 teachers. The program provides students with a seamless transition to earning a bachelor's degree and teaching credential at California State University, Long Beach. To date, Teacher TRAC has trained more than 800 teachers who work across Southern California and nationally. These generous donations ensure that Teacher TRAC will continue to thrive and prepare teachers for many more generations to come.

Addressing Student Food Insecurity

Food insecurity among students is increasing at an alarming rate. Research shows that 48 percent of community college students are food insecure. Here at Cerritos College, 25 percent of students qualify for the state's EBT/CalFresh program. The CalFresh Program, federally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), issues monthly electronic benefits that can be used to purchase most foods at many markets and restaurants. To address the issue of student hunger, our Food and Housing Insecurity Taskforce is working tirelessly to improve access to food and housing resources for students. In addition to our Taskforce's efforts, the College is co-sponsoring a bill in the State Assembly **AB 612: College Student Hunger Relief Act of 2019** with the Community College League of California. The bill would allow campuses with eligible facilities to accept EBT cards at their cafeterias and restaurants. Stay tuned for more updates on this important bill.



Thanks,
Jose

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