

**Dr. Jose Fierro**  
**President's Message**  
**September 6, 2019**

I continue to receive valuable feedback from many employees, students, and community members about the bomb threat incident that happened on campus earlier this week. It is important that we continue to receive your feedback regarding the events that transpired; this is how to we continue to reshape and improve our safety measures and protocols.

**We will be hosting a campus-wide forum on Thursday, September 12 at 11:00 a.m. All employees and students are invited and strongly encouraged to attend.** Please place this on your calendar and we will send more details soon.

Campus safety remains a top priority for the Board of Trustees and administration. At our Board Meeting on Wednesday, September 4, [the Board took immediate action to direct the college to secure the services of an independent security consultant to review our campus safety measures and protocols.](#) I am confident that this review process will help us examine our emergency response protocols through a neutral lens to further protect our community.

Violence at our campus cannot and should never be the norm. What we experienced on Tuesday is something that I do not wish upon anyone. I truly wish we lived in a society where we never have to be afraid of experiencing anything like this—on campus, or anywhere else! While we will never feel entirely safe when something like this happens, we must do the best we can to prepare one another. We must continue to collaborate so that our students and our peers have the tools we need to face this type of situation.

I know I am not alone in feeling incredibly proud of the work our Cerritos College family did to ensure the safety of our students. We now know, first hand, how students reacted and felt after the threat of violence; we will not forget that any time soon. We witnessed (and experienced) incredible bravery and anxiety in a period of crisis. The "see something, say something" training led to the arrest of the suspect within minutes. If not for the collaboration of our students, faculty, Campus Police, and our emergency team, we simply could not have acted as quickly as we did. That being said, the Board and administration is well aware that this incident provided us with an opportunity to improve and learn. Rest assured that we are already utilizing this unfortunate incident as an opportunity to tighten up our processes.

Jose

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