

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT/SUPERINTENDENT PRESIDENT'S CAMPUS UPDATES



September 30, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Student Center Renamed Bhupesh Parikh Student Hall

On September 21, we officially renamed the Student Center to the **Bhupesh Parikh Student Hall** during an unveiling ceremony with friends, family, and the community. Earlier this year, community members and philanthropists Bhupesh and Kumud Parikh established the Kumud Parikh Family Endowed Scholarship in the amount of \$125,000 for Cerritos College students. The couple also pledged to raise \$25,000 for additional scholarships, totaling \$150,000 toward student success.



The Bhupesh family's generosity to fund scholarships will help change the lives of our students for many years to come. A big thank you to the Foundation for organizing the amazing event, and to the Culinary Arts and the Music Departments for providing the wonderful cuisine and entertainment for the evening. You can learn more about the Parikh family on our [website](#).

Court 2 College (C2C) Making a Difference

Allow me to highlight the great work our **Court 2 College (C2C)** team is doing across campus and in the community. Court 2 College is a collaborative effort to reduce recidivism through multifaceted coordination led by the Cerritos College Counseling Department, the Los Angeles County Superior Court—Norwalk Court House, and the Department of Justice. This program offers first-time, nonviolent offenders an alternative to jail time as a condition of their



parole. Students receive direct services in education, counseling, and court supervision. Since its inception in 2016, 80 participants have enrolled in Court 2 College, having agreed to an average three-year probationary period and assistance with vocational and career pathways training. The average rate of completion in the program requires a two-year commitment.

Nicole Rodriguez-Cano and **Edgar Romo-Munoz** are just two students who are currently participating in Court 2 College. Both students struggled with finding direction in their lives until they enrolled in the program in 2016. Now they are both on the Dean's List, are gainfully employed student workers, and are ready to transfer to a CSU next year. Recently, the two visited the Compton Superior Court to share their stories before a panel of judges, district attorneys, and public defenders, including Judge Joseph Porras, who oversees the program. Falcon alumnus Peter Espinoza was the previous judge who established Court 2 College and served as the first presiding judge. After Judge Espinoza's retirement from the Norwalk Superior Court, Judge Joseph Porras assumed the role.

Today, California faces a daunting challenge in fixing our overcrowded criminal justice system. Costs are ballooning over \$60,000 per inmate each year and rising. Conversely, a California community college education costs less than \$50 a unit, roughly \$5,000 per student each. The economic benefits of a college education and other support services from Court 2 College will provide participants an opportunity to live productive lives. As a campus, I am proud of the work we continue to do to impact students in a positive way.

Celebrating Diversity and Awareness

October is full of national awareness and diversity events, and I am thrilled that the campus is joining the celebrations.

Latinx Awareness Month continues through October 30 with presentations and cultural performances, highlighting Latinx culture. **LGBTQ+ History Month** celebrates the contributions of the LGBTQ+ community and related civil rights movements. We are also celebrating **Domestic Violence Awareness Month** events to end domestic



violence and honor those who suffered and/or have survived domestic violence. I hope you will make time in your schedule to attend a few of the scheduled events during the month. Visit the [campus calendar](#) to find out about these events.

Thanks,
Jose

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