Dear Colleagues,

By all accounts, we had an incredible Accreditation site visit this week. As part of ACCJC’s peer review process, the visiting team, led by Dr. Kathleen Rose, Superintendent/President, Gavilan College, conducted over 40 interviews and held two open forums to assess the degree to which the college meets the ACCJC accreditation standards.

At today’s exit forum, Dr. Rose shared the team’s effusive praise of our student-centered campus. It was indeed a very proud moment for me when the team recognized our “active culture of service” at Cerritos College. Focusing on our students is what we do best, and it was quite an honor that our peers recognized our continuous effort to be a student-centered institution.

Dr. Rose highlighted the exemplary work being done in the following areas:

- Teacher TRAC
- Automotive Technology
- Our partnership with National University
- Basic Needs Taskforce
- Embedded Tutoring Program
- Cerritos Complete
- Dual Enrollment
- CTX
- Art Gallery
- Adult Education and Non-credit Integration
- Culinary Arts Program
- Woodworking Program

Dr. Rose also shared a commendation for Cerritos College for creating and encouraging innovation leading to institutional excellence.

The team also recognized some areas where we already know that we can improve, including clear alignment between our mission, learning outcomes, and program review; regularly addressing outcomes on all services areas utilizing established process; addressing and systematically communicating student services learning outcomes; and following established policies and procedures to communicate budget decisions in a consistent and timely manner.

Lastly, our visiting team was especially appreciative of Julie Mun, Shawna Baskette, Michelle Lewellen, Rick Miranda, Anna Fischer, Monique Valencia, Javier Banuelos, Carlos and the facilities staff, our student ambassadors, WPMD, Amber Douglas and the Culinary Arts students and staff, Automotive Technology, and the President’s Office staff.

The next step in the process is for the peer review team to develop a report based upon its visit and assessment of our ISER. The final report is expected from the ACCJC in July; I will share an update with the campus when we receive the preliminary report.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone once again for your hard work to prepare for this visit—these efforts were months, and in some cases, years in the making.

Thanks,

Jose

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