

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT/SUPERINTENDENT
PRESIDENT'S CAMPUS UPDATES



May 3, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

After a long and productive week, I hope each of you enjoyed this well-deserved weekend. Please take this time to reset and unwind from your workweek.

Below you will find just a few brief updates from the past week. There are so many accomplishments I would like to recognize but could not fit into one message, including another successful LA Food Bank event coordinated by many volunteers, preparations for a meaningful Commencement ceremony continued, distribution of laptops to students, disbursement of over \$2.7 million in direct aid to students, and a food distribution event by Jay Bharat Foods to our students and community. Please continue to share your department's accomplishments with me, large and small. I am proud of all our work as we surge into this period of urgent innovation.

2020 Fall Semester Course Delivery Options

We are considering various course delivery options for the fall semester, all of which hinge upon the direction we receive from state and local officials. The district has continued its weekly discussions with all constituent groups, and we are taking the input received into consideration. I will provide an update to the Board of Trustees at its meeting on Wednesday, May 6, and we will announce a plan by the end of next week. Rest assured, we are keeping your safety and the safety of our students at the forefront of our decision-making process, while at the same time, we are considering the academic integrity and the sustainability of our programs.

President's Speaker Series: Challenge Yourself

Friday, nearly 60 of our Cerritos College staff attended the first virtual President's Speaker Series. It was a great two-hour conversation; I would like to acknowledge Professor Damon Cagnolatti for delivering a powerful message and for leading in this time of transformation. He talked about the **hero's journey**, how the ordinary world has been disrupted, and our hero students are now embarking on a quest. As we collectively navigate an unfamiliar world, we as educators cannot afford to let this particular moment pass by. The question to ask ourselves is: what can educators do in order to guide our young hero students on their academic journeys?

To hear more of this talk, you can find a recording here: [President's Spring 2020 Speaker Series: Challenge Yourself](#). The next session, titled, "Be the One: Develop, Grow and Thrive" will be held on Friday, May 15 at 1:00 pm. You can register via the [Flex Reporter](#). We will continue to come together throughout the summer as well.

We also discussed the power of **moving past labeling** our current situation as COVID-19 or pandemic-related. You may notice that I have begun pulling away from those labels as we frame urgent conversations about progress and innovation. Let's be prepared to bring all the best things from this journey as we move *past* normal into a *better* normal. Paperless forms are a great example of one such improvement! Speaking of which, please join me in recognizing the Business Services team for rolling out Adobe Sign and several new paperless forms this week.

Dr. Jaclyn Ronquillo Honored with National Teaching Excellence Award

Join me in congratulating Dr. Jaclyn Ronquillo! She is a Falcon alumna and associate professor of psychology, who was selected as the **2020 recipient of the Wayne Weiten Teaching Excellence Award from the Society for the Teaching of Psychology**. The national award from the American Psychological Association recognizes her outstanding teaching contributions in the classroom and her involvement in advancing the scholarship of teaching and learning. She also received an Early Career Psychologist Award in 2019. Again, congratulations, Dr. Ronquillo.

Help Keep Students in School by Supporting the Student Emergency Aid Fund

I am grateful to all of you who have personally contributed to the Student Emergency Aid Fund. I am also thankful to our new donor [Right at Home Northwest Orange County](#) that graciously contributed to the College's communication and outreach efforts to raise awareness about the Student Emergency Aid Fund in the community. Donations will help students get living essentials from groceries, diapers, to the equipment needed to continue their studies at home. Listen to student **Hemat Aly** who has benefited from the resources made possible through the Student Emergency Aid Fund in the video below. Become a partner and help us serve more Cerritos College students by [making a gift today](#).

VIDEO:

<https://youtu.be/fL7e7qpEPgU>



[Cerritos College Student Emergency Aid Fund](#)

Cerritos College Student Emergency Aid Fund
youtu.be

Cerritos Cares for Students

As a quick a reminder, our [Cerritos Cares webpage](#) is the best one-stop information source for students. Please encourage students to visit the web page to get updated information on accessing student services, resources regarding food, financial aid, and housing insecurity issues. The link is located on the top banner of the website and is accessible from any Cerritos College web page throughout the website.

Headspace for LA County Residents

Lastly, I want to share the following information for our LA county residents. [Headspace](#) and the LA County Department of Mental Health have partnered to provide support and resources during this challenging time and residents of Los Angeles County can sign up to access Headspace Plus at no cost until December 31st,

2020. Headspace is an app that teaches you how to meditate. It is a global leader in mindfulness and meditation through its app and online content offerings. Below is how to sign up:

Visit <https://www.headspace.com/lacounty>

1. Scroll down and click the "GET FREE SUBSCRIPTION" button
2. When prompted, allow your browser to share your location
3. Once your location has been confirmed, you can log in to your existing account or create an account if you are new to Headspace
4. Enter the email address where you would like to receive your activation email (Make sure this is an email address you currently have access to) - you will then receive a link to activate the subscription
5. Click the "Verify" button in the activation email to activate your new membership

Sometimes it is difficult to see progress and we become impatient to see growth, so I would like to conclude by giving you a gentle reminder: we are a robust institution that is quickly becoming a full-service community college; not only physically on campus, but online as well. All of us need support along the way, so remember that we are a strong family and we will continue to support each other. Our student heroes need guidance on their quests, and we are here to serve. We are outgrowing our old lives, making progress, and creating a **better** normal.

Until next time,
Jose

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President/Superintendent