

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT/SUPERINTENDENT  
PRESIDENT'S CAMPUS UPDATES



June 13, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

We just wrapped up a busy week at Cerritos College while I plan to enjoy a restful weekend, I am already looking forward to the activities of next week. Below you will find updates regarding our Movement Towards Change, The Village at Cerritos College Grand Opening, and a quick update on developing a framework for reopening campus (long story short: we do not have plans to fully reopen the campus anytime soon).

**Week of Action: Movement Towards Change**

Cerritos College is declaring next week a **Week of Action: Movement Towards Change**. As the world pushes back against systemic racism in America, we will not be an institution that talks without taking action. Our incredible staff organized several events to host inclusive conversations next week.

Whether you have been speaking out or you are just entering the conversation, please know that we work hard to make Cerritos College a safe place to process your emotions and broaden your understanding about race issues. Whether you are faculty, classified, management, or hourly employee, I encourage each of us to participate in at least one of the events next week. It is now easier than ever to listen and communicate with one another no matter where we are physically located, so I hope you will join at least one event and be a part of the conversation.

**MONDAY, June 15 – [Register Here](#)**

Employee Listening Session | 9:00 to 11:00 AM

Professor Damon Cagnolatti and Dr. Valyncia Raphael will host a listening session to process reactions to the killing of George Floyd and the impact of ongoing systemic oppression in our communities. You are encouraged to say what you are thinking, feeling, and experiencing, to be acknowledged, and to learn from each other.

A Student Listening Session will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 PM as well. [Students can sign up here](#).

**TUESDAY, June 16 – [Register Here](#)**

A Campus Conversation - Empowered to Action | 2:00 to 4:00 PM

We invite you to a campus-wide visioning session to identify strategies to address anti-blackness and systemic oppression.

**June 15, 17, 19 | 1:00 to 5:00 PM**

Culturally Relevant Teaching and Learning Institute

The summer 2020 theme for the Learning Institute is *Building. Bridging. Becoming*. Professors Damon Cagnolatti and Lydia Alvarez will explore equitable approaches to teaching and learning that shape learning ecologies inclusive and supportive of all students. Faculty can audit by signing up on Flex Reporter or contact [dcagnolatti@Cerritos.edu](mailto:dcagnolatti@Cerritos.edu) or [lalvarez@Cerritos.edu](mailto:lalvarez@Cerritos.edu).

**FRIDAY, June 19**

Juneteenth Rally | 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | Event site: Lot #5. Enter parking off of New Falcon Way

Per county/state health orders, **the rally is limited to 100 people. Face coverings and social distancing are required.**

Join Umoja students, faculty, and staff in a celebration of Juneteenth (short for June Nineteenth) – the oldest known celebration of the end of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Union Major Gen. Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas to tell slaves they were free from slavery. Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation two years earlier on June 1, 1863. African-Americans celebrate Juneteenth as their true emancipation day. This year's Juneteenth celebration will mark a new move toward freedom and the end of social injustice.

### **The Village at Cerritos College is Now Open for Our Students**

On Thursday, we hosted a virtual press conference to announce the opening of [The Village at Cerritos College](#), California's first community college housing project exclusively for homeless students. In partnership with Jovenes, Inc. – a Los Angeles nonprofit whose mission is to assist homeless and displaced young adults – Cerritos College's new development will provide safe and secure housing and support services to students who face housing insecurity.

The property is located just blocks away from Cerritos College and will house up to 28 students between the ages of 18-25 years old. It consists of seven townhomes, which feature a mix of free options (bridge housing) and affordable rental options for students.

We had 225 attendees from around the world at the virtual press conference, including representation from over 40 other educational institutions! This was a great opportunity to show the world the good work that Cerritos College and Jovenes, Inc. does for our students. Many thanks to our team who organized this Zoom/live-on-location event: Bernice Watson, Carlos Serna, Cheryl Thury, Dilcie Perez, Irma Gorrocino, Miya Walker, Shannon Kaveney, Toni Grijalva, and Andrea Wittig.

### **Framework for Reopening Campus**

We continue to receive general updates from the State and County regarding reopening guidelines for educational institutions. We are not planning to fully reopen the physical campus anytime soon, and as I have mentioned in previous updates, for the fall 2020 semester, we are currently offering Group 1 lab classes on campus that primarily consist of CTE and Health Occupations classes that we are unable to offer online for various reasons.

Our priority continues to be maintaining a low number of individuals on campus in order to protect the health of our community. The college continues to develop guidelines for when we gradually reopen the campus.

Enjoy your weekend and I look forward to seeing you during the Week of Action.

Jose

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