

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT/SUPERINTENDENT  
PRESIDENT'S CAMPUS UPDATES



August 23, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to another fall semester at Cerritos College! I know that we all miss seeing the rush of students, and we miss seeing our colleagues and friends to say hello and wish them a happy and fresh start. This week, I missed the feeling of anticipation, excitement, and energy that are in the air while walking the campus during the first week of school. We might even miss the eager students who normally line up in their cars on Alondra and Studebaker, jamming our streets and parking lots for weeks to come.

Things have definitely changed since last fall; however, our shared commitment to serving our students in the best possible way has not changed. The manner in which we serve students in this new environment may be different, but your knowledge and expertise on what our students need most is more important than ever. **The Cerritos Way--our focus on service excellence--is as essential to our campus as it ever has been.**

The first week of the new semester concluded without major issues. I know some of you experienced technology challenges, but since this is our first time starting the fall semester online, I think that was to be expected. Overall, we are doing very well. I am appreciative of the many hours that faculty have put forward to get ready to receive our students. I am equally thankful for the hours that our classified staff, managers, vice presidents, and Board of Trustees have invested in supporting everyone on campus. From ensuring that faculty have the tools they need, to giving extra support and guidance to our students, I want you to know that your efforts do not go unnoticed. Thank you for going above and beyond.

I am particularly impressed with our Facilities team. Not only have they kept the campus running while we are away; these campus leaders have physically transformed several areas of the campus so that we could begin offering limited classes and services on campus. They accomplished all of this by collaborating with countless individuals who also worked hard to identify changes that needed to be made to make the environment safe for students, staff, and the public.

Our Study Hall is open and students are starting to use it. Our employees continue to develop additional ways to support our students. Current projects include the development of a help desk for students and a solution to offer library books. We hope to implement these solutions to enhance the student experience before the end of the semester. It is important to keep in mind that as we make operational changes, we are being very intentional with a long-term vision rather than just making short-term fixes. It is important to look far in the future so that the initiatives that we implement are effective for the long run.

I am looking forward to next week's virtual Convocation event. This year, we will hear our special guest, Jordan E. Horowitz, Chief Operating Officer of the Institute for Evidence-Based Change. Be sure to register for the event by [clicking on this registration link](#). And while we cannot gather for the traditional post-Convocation lunch provided by Culinary Arts, I will still be thinking about the delicious cookies normally provided by Amber and her team!

I would like to conclude by reflecting on the importance of treating each other with grace. We all have our bad days. You know the ones I am talking about. We all are facing challenges of varying magnitude. I know that we practice this already, but it is important to give each other a break when we see others reacting in ways we did not expect. I try to remember that our students are going through similar or worse challenges as we are, and they may have difficulty focusing on what we expect them to do. By showing up this fall semester, our students are demonstrating that they are committed to their academic goals. Let's endeavor to extend the same or higher level of grace that we hope others extend to us.

Again, thank you for everything you have done and continue to do. This is a defining moment for our Cerritos College family, and I am very proud to be a Falcon.

Jose

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President/Superintendent