



President's Briefing

Jose Fierro, D.V.M., Ph.D.

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Dear Colleagues,

I would like to begin this message by wishing a **Happy Administrative Professionals' Day** to each of our classified and confidential employees who support managers and the college daily. Your workdays are full of surprises that require flexibility, creativity, and a strong set of tools to help you get the information needed to complete the challenges at hand. You do all of this while also keeping up with your day-to-day tasks, and I recognize that this is no easy feat.

Please join me in saying an extra "thank you" to our administrative professionals today. It is also an opportune moment for me to share that my assistant, **Andrea Wittig**, as well as **Vanessa Rodriguez**, **Roxanne Mitchell**, and **Monica Acuna** have created a support network for administrative professional on campus. You can sign up in [Teams](#) if you would like to receive an invitation for their next meeting on Tuesday, May 10.

Human Resources: Change and Opportunity

No doubt you have noticed that we are experiencing a lot of transition on campus. As we serve on selection committees, review applications, and conduct interviews, I hope we can all take a moment to recognize our Human Resources employees who are managing an incredible workload during this semester. Not only is the HR office responsible for the day-to-day functions (such as onboarding, compliance, risk management, benefits, annual evaluations, leaves of absence, accommodations, staff development...just to name a few!)—this semester, the HR office has completed no less than 13 recruitments, with 36 more currently underway. The numbers continue to grow. Among those recruitments are 14 new full-time faculty who will be joining us in the fall, several internal promotions (please join me in congratulating **Dannia Hall**, **Irma Corado**, and **Vanessa Salas** on their very recent promotions!), and two vice presidents that will soon join our campus.

To my last point, I want to provide a brief update on our two vice president searches. The search is well underway for a VP of Human Resources, with campus-wide forums scheduled for May 23 and May 24. Working together with the entire Student Services area, we recognized an immediate need to fill the VP of Student Services position for the fall semester. The job announcement for VPSS was posted on April 15 and will be open through May 29. Campus-wide forums for the VP of Student Services are tentatively scheduled for July 18 and July 19.

While change can be difficult, it is an opportunity to look at where we are, what have accomplished so far, and what we want to continue to achieve as a campus. I would like to thank everyone who commits to these selection processes across campus. Your feedback and expertise are incredibly valuable. Also, please join me in thanking the employees in the Human Resources office who are making a heroic effort to maintain staffing levels across campus:

- **Dr. Lauren Elan Helsper**
- **Nancy Buvinger**
- **Kelly Rios**
- **Michael Meadors**
- **Johanna Avendano**
- **Edith Finney**
- **Monica Acuna**
- **Erin Miles**
- **Joseph Cervantes**
- **Jennifer Miller**
- **Hugh Nguyen**
- **Dee Munford**

ASCC Campus-Wide Efforts

This year's group of student leaders continue to go above and beyond in their roles, and I am impressed by their professionalism and tenacity. Earlier this month, I had the honor of attending a panel at the ASCC Leadership Retreat, where one of the things that we talked about was how representation is important. We were able to share personal stories about how we started out on our journeys to becoming leaders. I shared that when I arrived in the United States, I did not speak any English, and it was fun to be able to talk with our students about some of the challenges that I experienced as I began on my career path that led me to where I am today. I hope they enjoyed the conversations as much as I did.

This month, our **student leaders** also hosted the college's first State of Students event, where the entire campus had an opportunity to hear directly from our students about data on student involvement and resolutions passed. I hope that we can continue this event on an annual basis.

In addition, earlier this week I stopped by the Earth Day event where our students encouraged individuals to sign the Break Free from Plastic Pledge. Cerritos College was the first community college in California to sign on to the campaign, whose goals are simple but ambitious:

1. Establish a purchasing policy that eliminates campus and food vendor procurement of all non-essential, non-compostable, single-use disposable plastics. The goal is to keep accessibility and affordability at the forefront of decision-making to ensure that accommodations are made for all users of the system
2. Commit to monitoring plastic-free alternatives in future procurement decisions and policies regarding items that cannot currently be eliminated due to a lack of viable alternatives

3. Invest in education, resources, and infrastructure to assist in the Plastic-Free Campus transition

I want to emphasize that this effort was **initiated entirely by students**. We are excited to work together to accomplish the goals of the campaign.

2022 Managers of the Year

Last but not least, please join me in congratulating **Dr. Amber Hroch** and **Dr. Sheela Hoyle**, this year's recipients of the Manager of the Year Awards. Their leadership efforts have a significant impact on all areas of the college, and I appreciate their work to move the institution forward.

May is fast approaching, and as we enter into this season of student and employee celebrations, I hope that each of you feel a sense of pride about the work that we continue to do for our students and for the community. At a Cerritos Chamber event last week, where the **Falcon's Nest received the Shine Community Hero Award**, there was a great deal of buzz about the work we are doing for the students on campus and how we continue to elevate the college; in fact, one person referenced Cerritos College being like a university. As I conclude this message, I would again like to thank you for all that you do.

Have a great rest of the week!

Jose

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President/Superintendent