



October 28, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

We are already over halfway through this fall semester, and while it still does not feel like fall outdoors, the holiday season and end-of semester activities are just around the corner. I would like to provide you with a brief update on a few exciting things happening on campus.

Equity Center Grand Opening

Fridays are generally quiet on campus, but not this week! Earlier today, we celebrated the Equity Center's Grand Opening in the Santa Barbara building. I hope each of you take the time to familiarize yourself with our Equity Center, whose mission is to foster safe and brave spaces for students, particularly for marginalized identities on campus. Walking through the Center, it is easy to see the care and attention that went into every detail so that our students feel welcome and connected to the college and to one another.

It is always a privilege to be able to attend campus events where students and staff come together to celebrate a truly memorable occasion. I would like to recognize the many individuals involved in making today's event a success, including Antonio "Nio" Lavermon, Maria Barragan, keynote speaker and alum Armando Ibañez, the fantastic Equity Center tour guides, and of course, Dr. Lui Amador. Thank you for making a dedicated, intentional effort to support our students.

\$16 Million Reasons to Thank Speaker Anthony Rendon

You may have noticed the huge fenced-in construction area between the Administration Building and Student Center that has been vacant for the past couple of years. With the unexpected rising cost of construction, we were unable to break ground in this area for the next planned phase of construction.

However, earlier this year, we were able to meet with Speaker Anthony Rendon to ask for his support of a worthy project—to help us build the student services portion of the planned Student Services and Administration Building. Speaker Rendon is a Cerritos College alum and a tireless advocate for our students and for our community. The Speaker was able to secure a Prop 98 allocation of \$16 million to support our construction project, and the college is able to match these funds with the last of our Measure G bond dollars.

On October 19, [Speaker Rendon visited our campus](#) and we expressed our heartfelt appreciation for his advocacy and support. This new building is going to be a game-changer for our campus and our students. It will bring together the various student services currently scattered throughout the campus, including the Welcome Center and New Student Support, Educational Partnerships and Programs, Counseling, Student Government, Student Equity and Success, the Active Learning Center, Career and Placement Services, Transfer Center, Admissions, Financial Aid as well as computer labs, classrooms, meeting rooms, conference room spaces, the Falcon's Nest, and Franco's Closet.

Speaker Rendon is always out and about through our community, so if you see him, I hope you will take a moment to thank him for his advocacy in support of our students and our community college.

Learning and Career Pathways

Seeing our students and employees back on campus is energizing for me, and I hope that you feel the same way. A couple of weeks ago, we held our first ever Student Convocation, where Traci Ukita, Dr. Angela Hoppe-Nagao and I had an opportunity to talk with students about their time at Cerritos College; in particular, we emphasized the importance of staying on the path to meet their educational goals. The students may have been enticed to attend the event with the promise of free pizza, but I believe we were able to provide them with a wealth of information to help them stay focused on their studies.

A big part of the conversation, of course, was centered on [Learning and Career Pathways](#) and the success teams comprised of staff who are committed to helping each student cross the finish line. Traci and Angela continue to do a fantastic job spreading the word across campus about LCPs, and I encourage you to reach out to them if you have any questions.

Welcome Dawn Green, our Newest Trustee

Please extend a warm Cerritos College welcome to [Trustee Dawn Green](#), who was appointed to fill the vacancy in Trustee Area 2 left by Trustee Carmen Avalos's departure. Trustee Green is excited to join the Cerritos College family. We will host a reception to celebrate her swearing-in at the November 16 Board meeting and I hope you will join us.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8th

With the upcoming midterm elections, we are pleased to announce that Cerritos College will serve as an official **Vote Center** for the 2022 election. Los Angeles residents can cast their ballot at Cerritos College as early as **November 5-7, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.** and on **Election Day, November 8, 7 a.m.-8 p.m.** Our voting center will be located at the South Stage of the [Student Center](#).

And as our community members probably know by now, Cerritos College is on the ballot this year! Please take a look at the future projects that the college is asking to be funded from the [Measure CC the Cerritos College Safety, Repair, Career Training Bond](#).

Don't Forget About Halloween on Monday!

For many of our newer employees, this is the first year we get to enjoy Halloween on campus together. We have an entertaining tradition of donning costumes on this day, and I hope you choose to participate in any way that is fun for you. I know that some offices are participating in the [Halloween Decorating Contest](#) as well, so I look forward to seeing your festive creations.

Our remarkable faculty, staff, and students continue to receive countless state and national accolades in recent months. As I visit our community partners at various events across our district, it is an honor to be able to share all of the good work that YOU do. Importantly, our Public Affairs team always goes above and beyond to make sure that your efforts are displayed front and center in a variety of publications throughout the community. The most recent publication, "[The Best of the Best Milestones](#)" is a great summary that captures a few of these successes. One last thing I want to mention is that those of you who live in the community should have received our magazine, [SOAR](#), in the mail. You can also view it online at www.cerritos.edu/soar.

I always begin these messages with the intention of being brief, but there is so much to be thankful for and excited about at Cerritos College. I look forward to entering the month of November feeling as energized and committed as ever to the success of our students. Thank you for your time.

Enjoy your weekend,

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