



Office of the
President

February 29, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

This Friday, we will hold our first-ever **Students First Framework** retreat, where over 200 of our employees and students will participate in shaping the future of Cerritos College.

The Students First Framework is completely homegrown, built from the ground up by our Cerritos College colleagues. This will replace our Educational Master Plan and will help us get to where we want to go; that is, to graduate fifty percent of our students within five years or less by spring 2029. To achieve this, we decided to work without an external consultant who would typically write a plan for us. Collectively, our expertise of Cerritos College is second to none. We know what is best for our students, and that is why soliciting your input during the retreat is so valuable. That is what I mean when I say the Students First Framework is homegrown; it is unique to our institution and reflective of our wants, needs, and values for Cerritos College.

I want to call to your attention three items before tomorrow's retreat:

- Today you will be receiving a **Students First Framework Data Kit** in your mailboxes. This publication provides a general overview of the Framework Levers, with some helpful facts about our students, the college, and our community. Thank you to the IERPG and Public Relations & Communications departments for their top-notch work on this publication. Also, thank you to everyone who provided input during the review process. The Data Kit is also available [online](#).
- For those of you who are attending tomorrow's retreat: As we identify strategies that help us achieve our goal, I ask that you keep in mind our institutional values that guide us every day at Cerritos College. At our core, we value equity, student success, excellence in teaching, learning, and service, innovation and creativity, celebrating diversity, promoting respect and trust, integrity, nurturing and supportive partnerships with external agencies, and inclusiveness. These values are woven into all that we do at Cerritos College, and I encourage you to keep them in mind as we work through the day.
- After tomorrow's retreat, we will be posting information on the following web page: <https://www.cerritos.edu/students-first-framework/>. The first draft of the Students First Framework will be finalized in early April, at which point we will solicit the entire campus for feedback.

The development of the Students First Framework would not be possible without you. I am looking forward to tomorrow and I am excited about what is in store for the future.

Jose

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