



April 2, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

Last week, we hosted over 100 local representatives, business leaders, and community members on campus for the annual State of the College address. I had the privilege of sharing the college's recent accomplishments and our commitment to **uplift our students, uplift our employees, and uplift our communities.**

Our goal of graduating more students in less time goes beyond our campus; the reality of our work is that **we are in the business of building communities.** For every student we help transfer or earn a degree or certificate, we make a dramatic impact on their lives. In today's market, the impact translates to a salary increase of nearly \$11,000 per year to those who earn an associate degree, and a 60% increase in wages for those who complete our CTE programs. To look at it another way, **Cerritos College generates half a billion dollars within our local economy every single year** through the contributions of our students, alumni, employees, and community. The work we do matters.

During the event, **Congresswoman Linda Sánchez announced she secured \$1 million in federal funding dedicated to the expansion of our Child Development Center (CDC).** This funding is in addition to \$782,000 secured by Assemblymember Blanca Pacheco last year through the State of California. With these funds, we will soon be able to expand our facilities and provide more students and community members with world-class childcare services. The expansion will also enhance our early childhood education program.

I was also pleased to share that **Congresswoman Michelle Steel secured \$1 million in federal funding to support our veteran students.** The funding will help us launch our new Career Command Center, a program designed to support our veteran students as they transition to civilian life. In this two-year pilot program, our veteran students will have the opportunity to engage in paid work on campus to increase their civilian job skills. As always, we are deeply appreciative of our representatives' support of our campus community.

When we invest in student success, everyone wins. Thank you to everyone who attended last week's event. I encourage you to view the [presentation](#) on our website. It is an honor for me to be able to speak to the community about all the amazing things you are achieving inside and outside the classroom in support of our students.

Finally, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to making this event a reality. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from our attendees is a testament to your dedication and professionalism, reflecting the fruits of your labor.

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