

August 11, 2023

## Dear Colleagues,

Like each of you, I am excited to begin the fall semester next week. While there is always excitement with the planning and preparation during summer, seeing more and more students on campus brings us that irreplaceable "first day of school" feeling. I am looking forward to another new semester at Cerritos College.

I hope for many of you, summer was a time of relaxation and fulfillment. For those who worked throughout the summer, I am grateful for your hard work and your willingness to go the extra mile and think innovatively about meeting our students' needs in new ways. A special thank you to our facilities team and information technology who worked diligently throughout the summer to make sure our fall semester begins with updated and improved infrastructure and capabilities. We made significant investments in several of our classrooms and programs; along with your expertise, these improvements will lead to even more student success stories in the coming years.

I would like to also acknowledge the great collaboration between Human Resources and Business Services under the leadership of VP Gutierrez and EVP Lopez. Both teams were proactive in preparing and implementing the recent salary adjustments for our employees. Please join me in thanking them for their incredible work in ensuring seamless updates to our payroll system.

Please take these last few days to enjoy our last glimpses of summer. If you haven't already, please save the date for our 2023 Convocation on August 31. The Cerritos 500: Race to Completion will kick off our efforts for this academic year--not with a bang, but with a green flag. This will be a fun and inspiring event. Be sure to wear your favorite race gear.

See you on race day!

Jose

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