



October 13, 2023

October is already here! Next thing we know, it will be the holiday season, and we will be ramping up to the end of the semester. But before we get there, I would like to provide you with a brief update on a few exciting things happening on campus.

The College Tour: Cerritos College Debuts

On September 19 we had the opportunity to premiere our episode of *The College Tour* in the PAC building. If you couldn't join us, our [full episode](#) is available on our website and will be streaming on Amazon Prime starting October 17. The episode highlights our amazing students, whose diverse backgrounds, interests, and educational goals shine through. Through the episode and the Q&A panel at the premiere, our students talked about how faculty, staff, and administrators influenced them to try something new or persevere through a challenging time that led them to achieve their goals. Our culture of putting students first is on full display in this episode and I hope that you enjoy watching it.

I want to take a moment to recognize the many individuals and departments that attributed to the project's success. The Public Affairs team, Associated Students of Cerritos College, Facilities Team, Operations Team, Office of School Relations, Theatre Production Team, Culinary Arts, Commercial Music, and the countless individuals who volunteered to be part of this incredible experience: thank you!

Assemblymember Pacheco Secures \$782,000 for Expansion of the Child Development Center

Two weeks ago, we gathered at the Child Development Center to recognize the support from Assemblymember Blanca Pacheco in securing \$782,000 in funding to expand our Child Development Center. The Child Development Center provides a vital resource to our community and our students, and it plays a crucial role in the success of Cerritos College's future. It is through the Child Development Center that the College establishes its promise of high-quality education to the youngest learners in our community. Through the CDC, our teachers plant the seed in many of our community members' young minds that higher education is within reach. I look forward to seeing the center expand and grow.

Investing in Carbon-Reducing and Energy-Saving Technology

Several years ago, the college became more intentional in developing and fostering an environmentally conscious campus. As you know, our students initiated a pledge to break free from plastic on campus in 2021, which is leading to better decisions that lower detrimental impacts on the environment. This semester, the college is continuing to develop a Sustainability Plan that will guide our decision-making processes in the years to come.

You will notice a couple of changes to our parking lots. We installed 12 electric vehicle charging stations in lots 2, 4, and 10, which combined have reduced our greenhouse gas emissions by 11,254 kilograms over the last three years. Beginning in the summer of 2024, we will be installing solar panel carports in lots 1 and 10. Estimations reveal these panels will reduce our current energy consumption by 85%, saving the District roughly \$17 million over a 20-year period.

I also want to thank Jannet Malig for her extraordinary contributions in advancing energy vehicle technologies in California. Recently, Jannet was inducted into the Clean Cities coalitions' Hall of Fame and received the Benjamin Watson Inspirational Award for her leadership, dedication, and innovative work in the coalitions. Through her work, Cerritos College has created the path for many of our local high schools and our college students to engage in programs that develop new electric transportation technologies. Please join me in congratulating Jannet on her achievements and supporting our sustainability initiatives. Together, we can do our part to make our campus and our planet healthier for all.

We Welcome You, New Employees

Finally, I want to take a moment to welcome all our new employees to the Falcon Family! On September 20 we held the New Employees Reception, attended by the new and promoted employees across 30 departments on campus. Our faculty, staff, and administrators each have their own distinct backgrounds, which together generate innovative ideas toward helping our students succeed. I hope we all continue to learn from one another as we grow and develop professionally. For those that are new and for those that may need reminding, my door is always open to you. I enjoy hearing from each of you your creative ideas and suggestions about how we can improve the programs and services we provide to create success for our students.

We have several more events lined up for October – don't forget to invite our students to Student Convocation on October 18 and enjoy the Homecoming Game on October 21.

I hope you enjoy the weekend!

Jose

Jose L. Fierro, D.V.M., Ph.D.
President/Superintendent
Cerritos College
11110 Alondra Blvd
Norwalk, CA 90650