



May 23, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

As we wrap up the academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what we've accomplished together and to thank you for the role you've played in making this a truly historic year for Cerritos College.

We are on track to award way **over 9,000 degrees and certificates**, the highest number in our college's history. These are more than just metrics—they represent individual students who made the decision to persist, to work hard, and to believe in themselves. Many of them overcame significant challenges to reach this point. Thanks to your efforts, they now have a foundation they can build on for the rest of their lives.

This year, we saw significant growth in key areas:

- **AA and AS degrees** increased by **30.49%**
- **Associate Degrees for Transfer (AD-Ts)** rose by **38.4%**

We also reached an important milestone in our dual enrollment efforts. **Seventy-one (71) high school students** earned a degree or certificate from Cerritos College before receiving their high school diploma. This achievement reflects the strength of our partnerships and the power of access to higher education at an early stage. We've built a solid foundation, and we expect this number to continue growing in the years ahead.

All of this took place while we continued to navigate the pressures of state budget reductions and federal-level uncertainty. Even with those challenges, your focus on student success never wavered. You showed up every day for our students with care, professionalism, and resolve. And it made a difference.

To our colleagues who are retiring this year, thank you. Your work has shaped this college and touched countless lives. Whether in the classroom, through student services, or behind the scenes, your contributions will continue to be felt for years to come. You leave a lasting impact on the students you've supported and the teams you've strengthened. We are grateful for everything you've done.

As we prepare for graduation, I hope we all take a moment to step back and recognize what we've achieved together, not just in terms of numbers, but in terms of the lives changed, the barriers removed, and the opportunities created.

Thank you for your dedication, your commitment to our mission, and your belief in our students.

Jose

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