



April 28, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

About a week and a half ago, we had the honor of hosting over 100 community members to our 2025 State of the College. This year's theme, "Resilience Connects Us, Innovation Drives Us," was more than a reflection of overcoming challenges – it was celebrating our champions and those who came together to make a positive impact on our community.

As I prepared my presentation, the focus naturally shifted from the barriers we overcame to the lives we've transformed. It became clear: **our story isn't one of obstacles—it's one of progress and purpose.** Together, our community partners, alumni, students, and employees create an environment that embodies resilience and innovation, carrying on our values and commitments of our campus to the rest of the nation. Together, **We Are Cerritos College.**

Thanks to your unwavering commitment to student success, we had no shortage of achievements to highlight. This year, we awarded more degrees and certificates than ever before. We are leading the way in sustainability -on track to become the greenest community college in the nation. We earned the Seal of *Excelencia*, having more than doubled the number of Latino and Hispanic graduates in the last eight years—a testament of how we continually innovate to better serve our community. I invite everyone to review all we accomplished together in this year's [presentation](#).

To everyone who made the event possible—thank you. A shoutout to Professors Joe Mulleary and Wendy Wright for highlighting the incredible work done through Automotive Technology and Retail Management. Thank you to the Culinary Arts, Facilities, and so many others behind the scenes who made this day a success.

I also want to take a moment to congratulate our Outstanding Faculty Award recipients—and a special round of applause for our Most Outstanding Faculty Award winner, Chef Michael Pierini. Your commitment to our students and your contributions through education inspire us all.

Now, as we move into graduation season, let's take a moment to reflect and celebrate—not just the achievements of our students, but the collective effort that brought them to this moment. It is time to celebrate that **We Are Cerritos College!**

Jose

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