



August 4, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

As summer begins to wind down, I hope you've found time to pause, to rest, reflect, and recharge. I was fortunate to spend part of this summer with family, and it reminded me just how powerful even a short break can be. If you haven't had the opportunity to take time off yet, I encourage you to do so; even a quiet staycation can offer the space to breathe, reset, and return with renewed energy and perspective. This summer also brought a moment of personal reflection, as many of you shared kind messages during the celebration of my 10th year at Cerritos College. I want to thank you sincerely. The stories, notes, and memories you shared weren't just about a milestone—they were reminders of the lives we are impacting together, and the community we've built over time. I'm proud to be a part of it, and even more inspired by where we are headed.

Looking ahead, we know that higher education continues to face real challenges from shifting political landscapes to regulatory and budgetary uncertainty. But we also know this: **Cerritos College has always stood strong because of the people who make it what it is. In moments of change, our collective strength—our shared values, our deep commitment to students, and our support for one another has always carried us forward.**

That's why we're working not only to meet immediate needs, but to build lasting resilience. We are embedding it into how we plan, budget, and make decisions, ensuring that Cerritos College remains a place where students can thrive and where employees feel supported, valued, and empowered to lead. This work doesn't live in a single plan or office; it happens across our campus every day, through the actions we take and the relationships we cultivate.

As we enter a new academic year, I'm filled with gratitude for your continued dedication, for the purpose we share, and for the meaningful difference you make in the lives of our students and community. I look forward to all we'll accomplish together in the year ahead.

Jose L. Fierro, D.V.M., Ph.D.  
President/Superintendent