



September 10, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

I want to make you aware of a significant federal policy change that directly affects Cerritos College and many other Hispanic-Serving Institutions across the country.

Yesterday, the U.S. Department of Education announced it will [end discretionary grant funding for programs that use race-based eligibility criteria](#), including the Title V Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) program. This change puts approximately **\$350 million in annual HSI funding nationwide at risk**. At the same time, the Department of Justice has declined to defend the constitutionality of these programs in court, leaving them vulnerable to legal challenges.

For Cerritos College, the impact is substantial. We are currently in the first year of a \$3 million Title V grant supporting our [MADE initiative](#), which provides mentoring, expands dual enrollment opportunities, and builds equity infrastructure for our Latino student population. Work on this initiative is already underway, and the announcement means that **our current award will likely not be renewed, and no new awards will be made in fiscal year 2025**.

Moments like this highlight why Cerritos College is committed to building resilience into how we plan and operate. By weaving foresight into our budget, operations, and decision-making, we aim to protect the College's stability and mission even in times of financial and political uncertainty.

I want to let you know that Cerritos College is responding quickly to this news:

- We are monitoring federal guidance and the ongoing legal process.
- We are preparing an analysis of alternative funding pathways to continue supporting our students.
- We are working with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) and our local congressional offices to advocate for continued federal investment in Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

Please know that our dedication to serving students and advancing equity is unwavering. We will continue to fight for the resources that help our students succeed, and we will keep you updated as this situation evolves.

Thank you for your dedication and for the work you do every day to ensure our students thrive.

Sincerely,
Jose L Fierro, D.V.M., Ph.D.
President-Superintendent
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