



November 25, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

I want to provide you with an important update regarding a development that has understandably raised questions and concerns across higher education in California. Late last week, the federal administration filed a lawsuit challenging the state's long-standing policy that allows certain undocumented students to qualify for in-state tuition under Assembly Bill 540. **This law has supported thousands of California high school graduates since 2001** and is closely tied to the California Dream Act, which provides access to state financial aid.

To ensure everyone has accurate information, I want to briefly summarize the key points at the center of the lawsuit, but before I do so: I want to assure you that **there is currently no impact on our operations, on AB 540 eligibility, on financial aid processes, or on how we serve our students**. All existing state policies remain in full effect, and we will continue to follow them. **We will not make any institutional changes unless they are required by law.**

The complaint argues that California is violating a federal law that limits post-secondary education benefits for individuals who lack legal immigration status. It claims that allowing undocumented students to pay in-state tuition results in unequal treatment when compared to United States citizens from out of state who must still pay nonresident fees. The suit names several major state entities, including the Governor, the Attorney General, the UC Board of Regents, the CSU Board of Trustees, and the California Community Colleges Board of Governors, and seeks to change or halt how in-state tuition is granted.

We are already in close contact with the Chancellor's Office and other State agencies, and to reiterate: **there is currently no impact on our operations and we will not make any institutional changes unless required by law.**

I want to speak to you not only as your President, but as someone who deeply values the compassion and dedication that define this campus. Moments like this can create uncertainty, especially for the students and families who rely on us most. Our undocumented students, in particular, may be feeling anxious and vulnerable. I know that each of you understands the importance of stability and reassurance during times like this.

Our commitment to our students does not waver in the face of headlines or lawsuits. Cerritos College has always stood as a place of opportunity and hope for students from every background. Their courage and resilience inspire our work, and they deserve our full support. **Every student who walks through our doors belongs here. Every student deserves to feel safe, respected, and valued.**

I am grateful for the way our campus community consistently rises to support students, especially when circumstances outside their control create fear or confusion. Your empathy, your professionalism, and your belief in the transformative power of education make a real difference in their lives.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and share updates as they become available. Until then, please continue to provide the care, understanding, and service that define our campus culture. Cerritos College is strongest when we stand together, united in purpose and grounded in our values.

One community. One campus.

With great appreciation,

Jose

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