



September 2, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

What a way to begin the year. The Performing Arts Center was filled wall to wall, a sea of Falcons gathered in one of the largest convocations in our history. That crowd, that energy, that unity was a powerful reminder that Cerritos College is not just starting another year; we are launching a movement.

Convocation showed us what we are capable of. In just 10 years, we have quadrupled the number of degrees and certificates awarded, shattered records in student completions, and delivered historic levels of student success. These are not just statistics. They are proof of transformation. Students climbing out of poverty, families lifted into stability, futures forever redefined.

And now, we stand on the edge of our boldest summit: graduating 50 percent of our students in five years or less. Falconers call it *yarak*. *Yarak* is the moment when a falcon is at its peak strength, laser-focused, and ready to strike. That is where we are now. We are in *yarak*. We are fierce. We are ready. And we will not lose sight of our target: helping every student succeed.

For those who stayed until the very end, you heard the truth that defines us. Others may outspend us. Others may outnumber us. But no one — no one—will outwork us. Together, we fight for our students. Together, we climb for their future. Together, we rise as one.

Thank you for bringing your passion, your pride, and your energy to Convocation. Thank you to every crew member, every volunteer, every staff and faculty member who made this gathering possible. Your work lit the stage, filled the seats, and ignited our campus with belief.

This year proved something undeniable: when thousands of Falcons come together for one mission, nothing can stop us. We are Cerritos College. One College. One Mission. One climb: together.



Have a great week,

Jose

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