



Cerritos College
Building Futures Through Learning



News Release

Cerritos Community College District • 11110 Alondra Blvd. • Norwalk CA 90650 • www.cerritos.edu

View online release here: <http://www.cerritos.edu/releases-2020/11/Food-Drive.htm>

Cerritos College Hits Milestone Serving 20,000 Families, Distributing Over One-Half Million Pounds of Food

New Food Drive Set for November 25

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 24, 2020

Media Contact: Aya Abelon; Public Affairs

Norwalk, Calif. – November 24, 2020 – Cerritos College reached a significant milestone serving more than **20,000 families** through its monthly [food drives](#). During the health crisis alone, the College's food drives have **served 11,270 families** a total of **665,000 lbs.** of food –more than **one-half million pounds** or **332 tons**.

Prior to COVID-19, the College hosted walk-up food distributions on campus bimonthly, but modified its distribution format to no-contact, drive-thru events to feed students and families. On average, the campus served 500 households per month before the pandemic, and has distributed doubled its outreach to approximately **1,300 households** each month. It takes more than 50 staff and student volunteers to make each food distribution events possible. Since 2017, the College has partnered with the L.A. Regional Food Bank to distribute free food and resources to students and the community.

Food and basic needs insecurity is a persistent problem for Cerritos College students. According to the 2019 #RealCollege Survey Report conducted by The Hope Center, **46%** of Cerritos College students who responded to the survey experienced food insecurity within 30 days prior to taking the survey.

To meet growing needs, Cerritos College expanded its basic needs support services through its [Falcon's Nest](#) to provide centralized support services for students facing basic need insecurities. With the support of Falcon's Nest, students can access on- and off-campus resources, including the monthly food drives.

The College has also increased its student support offerings to include housing for students facing home insecurity through [The Village](#). Students can also access technology assistance, emergency aid funds, and more resources to assist students with unexpected financial challenges so they can stay on track to complete their educational goals.

"Our ability to serve 20,000 families in our community is a special honor. We are committed to helping our students and the community during these difficult times," said Dr. Jose Fierro, president/superintendent, Cerritos College. "Addressing basic needs insecurities is part of our mission to support our students and offer resources to ensure they are successful in their studies."

Cerritos College will host a food drive on November 25 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. and on December 16 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Visit <https://www.cerritos.edu/basic-needs/> for more information.

Food Drive: Feeding Cerritos



Since Fall 2017 a total of **21,259** households have been served



Pre-COVID (December 2017-February 2020)



Feeding Cerritos

Taking care of our community means – we take care of the whole person – meeting the basic needs of our most vulnerable students and community members when they need it most. Food, during times of distress, is often the best way to show you care. Through our [Falcon's Nest](#), Cerritos College is feeding the community, and providing centralized support services for students facing basic need insecurities. Our students can access on- and off-campus food, housing, health & wellness, financial wellness, and employment resources.

Post-COVID (March 2020-Oct 2020)



A total of **665,000** pounds of food (332 tons) provided



About Cerritos College: Cerritos College serves as a comprehensive community college for southeastern Los Angeles County. Communities within the college's district include Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs, and South Gate. Cerritos College offers degrees and certificates in more than 180 areas of study in nine divisions. Annually, more than 1,200 students successfully complete their course of studies. Enrollment currently averages 21,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at <http://www.cerritos.edu/>.

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