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## **Cerritos College Receives CalHOSA Grant to Launch a Mental and Behavioral Health Pathway for High School Students**

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**Norwalk, Calif. – September 7, 2021** – The Cerritos College Foundation received a \$25,000 grant from Cal-HOSA, Inc. to support a mental and behavioral health pathway for high school students. The grant will allow Los Altos High School students to work toward a career in psychosocial recovery and rehabilitation by enrolling in the Cerritos College Mental Health Worker Program. The pathway will provide educational options for Los Altos High School students to obtain a Mental Health Worker certification. The funding will be used for program implementation and to provide financial assistance to students, including textbook and resource assistance, work-based learning travel support, and other program related costs.

"We are honored to receive the support from Cal-HOSA and thrilled to have the Los Altos High School students in our program. The Mental Health Worker Program has been successfully preparing students with valuable skills, and many of our alumni have secured employment in the field upon completion of the program," says Dr. Jaclyn Ronquillo-Adachi, chair of the Psychology Department.

The Cerritos College Office of Education Partnerships and Programs and Eva Munoz, academic counselor at Los Altos High School, have been an integral part in establishing the partnership. "We had a great number of students who were interested in this opportunity, said Munoz. "High school students are young, but they understand the importance of advocating for mental health. Our students are excited to take part in this opportunity to learn and acquire professional skills, as well as completing a certificate."

For more information about the Mental Health Worker Program and the partnership, please contact Dr. Jaclyn Ronquillo-Adachi at [jronquillo@cerritos.edu](mailto:jronquillo@cerritos.edu).

**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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