

# SOAR



REACHING HIGHER IN EDUCATION  
2022 EDITION

The state-of-the-art  
**Performing Arts Center**



**CERRITOS**  
COLLEGE



Welcome to the latest issue of *SOAR*.

We are excited that we are returning to on-campus operations after two years of online learning. We have so much good news to share.

Earlier this year, College Consensus named Cerritos College one of the nation’s best community colleges, recognizing our focus on first-generation students and our services and programs designed to put students first.

We recently launched several noteworthy resources to help our students. On July 14, we opened the new state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center. In March, we opened

The Falcon’s Nest, a network of resources to support students’ basic needs. Our student leaders also helped launch Metro GoPass, which provides students with discounted transit passes.

More resources are coming to campus. If you drive past the College, you’ll notice an increase in construction activity. As part of our Facilities Master Plan, we are undergoing several significant building projects to create the best learning environment for students possible. Our goal is to provide more resources that will improve the lives of our students and residents. Since the passage of two local bond measures in 2004 and 2012, the District has made significant progress to reshape the College into a 21st century institution. To that end, we strive to be good stewards and hold ourselves accountable for every dollar spent to accommodate the growing demand for modern facilities and infrastructure upgrades.

From providing basic resources like transportation and food to expanding the campus with new facilities, we take pride in finding innovative ways to support our students. We can’t do this work alone. Our success stems from the collaboration between faculty, staff, and administrators who help our students cross the finish line and *SOAR* higher.

Cerritos College is your community college. We are honored to serve as an accessible educational institution and to be part of the community. Thank you for your continued support.

Dr. Jose Fierro  
President/Superintendent

Twitter: @DrJfierro\_ Instagram: cerritoscollegepres

## Meet New Vice President of Human Resources Dr. Mercedes Gutierrez

Dr. Mercedes Gutierrez joined Cerritos College as the new Vice President/ Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. Dr. Gutierrez has a wealth of experience in human resources management in the public education sector, including her most recent assignment as Interim Vice Chancellor of Human Resources at the Los Angeles Community College District.



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## David Rodarte Turns Tragedy Into Inspiration



David Rodarte in 2021 L.A. Marathon

David Rodarte grew up playing competitive sports. Living in Downey, he played football, soccer, basketball, and baseball. He also wrestled throughout high school.

At 19, David was involved in a car accident and suffered a spinal cord injury that left him experiencing paraplegia. As he worked through physical rehabilitation, he channeled his ambitions into action. He began playing wheelchair basketball at Rancho Los Amigos Rehabilitation Center where he excelled.

During this time, David was enrolled at Cerritos College as a sociology major and dreamed of helping others. As a transfer student, he earned an athletic scholarship to the University of Illinois where he completed his bachelor’s degree in sociology.

David continued to thrive in adaptive sports, playing professional wheelchair basketball in the United States and overseas. Upon returning to the U.S., he earned a master’s degree in counseling at California State University, Long Beach.

David returned to Cerritos College in 2017 to serve as a full-time counselor, helping veterans and students with disabilities. His life came full circle when he was asked to coach the wheelchair basketball team at Rancho Los Amigos — where his adaptive sports journey began.

In 2021, one of the basketball players brought an old handcycle to donate. (Note: A handcycle is a three-wheeled, self-propelled vehicle powered by the user’s arms rather than their legs. The front wheel is powered by specially-designed hand cranks for people with limited use of their legs.) David borrowed the handcycle with an intention to exercise. But, six weeks before the 2021 L.A. Marathon, his competitive spirit kicked into gear — and with no experience in cycling — David casually signed up for the race.

After training for little over a month — biking around the Rose Bowl and stationary training with a roller in his garage — David won the Marathon’s “Athletes with Disabilities” division. Using a borrowed handcycle, he beat seasoned athletes with high-end custom bikes. The experience lit a fire inside of David to advocate for more adaptive sports and diversity. Now, he has his eye on competing in the Paralympics.

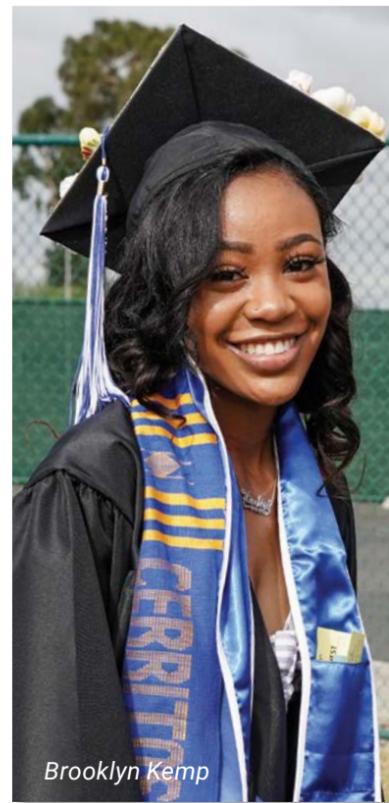
“I have been adapting and overcoming since I was 19,” says David, “and I want to motivate others to be competitive and educated.”

David’s commitment to excellence, his perseverance, and his strong spirit is a model for students and players alike.



**Brooklyn Kemp** began her studies at Cerritos College in the fall of 2020. She was a part of the **Umoja Success Program** and campus clubs Active Minds and Finding Funds for Falcon. She also served as the president of the Sociology Club. The sociology major transferred to North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, a Historical Black College and University. Her educational goal is to obtain the highest degree possible in her field.

**Umoja** is part of the College's Learning Communities which provide a group of classes to a cohort of students and assist students with enrollment for a seamless transition to college. Dedicated tutors, faculty, staff, and events will guide students throughout their experience. Students can benefit from a strong support system and make a lasting connection with their peers. Learn more about Learning Communities at [www.cerritos.edu/lc](http://www.cerritos.edu/lc).



Brooklyn Kemp

## After a Two-Year Hiatus, In-Person Commencement Returns for the Class of 2020 and 2022

Cerritos College celebrated its Class of 2022 and the Class of 2020 in May with the first in-person commencement ceremonies since 2019. Graduates from the Class of 2020 participated after COVID-19 restrictions shuttered graduation plans during the onset of the pandemic. The College hosted a drive-thru ceremony to honor the Class of 2021 last year.

More than **5,100 associate degrees and skills certificates** were presented to the Class of 2022, making it the largest graduating class in the College's history.



**Jonathan Manjarrez, Jr.** took **dual enrollment** classes at Cerritos College when he was a Calvary Chapel High School student. He received his associate degree in film production at the same time he graduated from high school this summer. Jonathan was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and on the Dean's List at Cerritos College. He now attends UC Berkeley.

**Dual Enrollment** allows young students to enroll in a college course and earn college credits while still enrolled in another K-12 institution. K-12 students seeking advanced scholastic courses may take classes of their interest that are not offered at the high school level. The program offers a low-cost or no-cost way to earn college credit in some cases. Learn more about Dual Enrollment at [www.cerritos.edu/epp/Dual\\_Enrollment.htm](http://www.cerritos.edu/epp/Dual_Enrollment.htm).



Jonathan Manjarrez, Jr.

## PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST

At Cerritos College, we put students first.

Beyond a high-quality education and student experience, Cerritos College provides basic needs support, such as food, housing, clothing, and hygiene, to remove obstacles from students' lives so they can focus on their studies.

In March, the College launched its new **Metro GoPass** program for all students. Cerritos College students who pay their Student Activities Fee each semester are able to ride and transfer between several transit systems all over L.A.

Cerritos College also opened **The Falcon's Nest**, a network of resources to help meet students' basic needs, including a free campus food pantry that consists of healthy, fresh food and vegetables. The Falcon's Nest also offers clothing, hygiene support, emergency aid resources, and housing resources. **The Village** is California's first community college housing project exclusively for homeless students.

Amidst the pandemic, the College distributed **\$1.3 million** from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to forgive **2,400 unpaid student accounts** from summer 2020 through fall 2021, and provided emergency aid, grocery cards, and laptop/Wi-Fi assistance to help students navigate the challenging times and continue their education.



## AT A GLANCE

Focused on student development and academic success, Cerritos College offers nearly 300 degrees and certificate programs in nine divisions. The diverse student body is made up of more than 17,000 students studying in areas such as business; fine arts and communication; liberal arts; kinesiology; health occupations; humanities and social sciences; science, engineering and mathematics; and technology.

The District encompasses southeastern Los Angeles County communities: Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs and South Gate.

## QUICK FACTS

 Cerritos College **ranks ninth** among the best 10 community colleges in California (Source: *Stacker.com*)

 Student/Faculty ratio is **25-to-1** (Source: *US News*)

 The school has an **open admissions** policy and offers credit for life experiences. (Source: *US News*)

 The in-state tuition and fees for 2018–2019 were \$1,346, and out-of-state tuition and fees were \$8,710. There is no application fee. (Source: *US News*)



## BUDGET INFORMATION



**Revenue**  
\$ 153,463,272



Source: Fiscal year 2022-23 adopted budget

**Expenses**  
\$152,916,256

Employee Costs	\$ 135,114,612
Operating	\$ 8,013,542
Supplies and Materials	\$ 1,406,270
Capital Outlay	\$ 1,174,383
Interfund Transfers-Out	\$ 7,206,349
Other Student Aid	\$ 1,100

**Employee Costs**  
\$135,114,612

Academic	\$ 65,025,114
Classified	\$ 28,552,045
Benefits	\$ 41,537,453

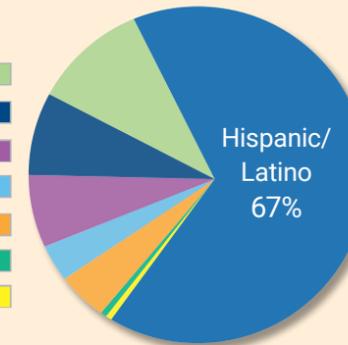
## STUDENT INFORMATION

**Student Enrollment** (Spring 2022)  
19,186



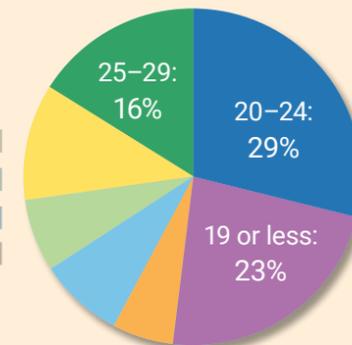
### Enrollment by Ethnicity (Spring 2022)

White Non-Hispanic	10.2%
African-American	7.5%
Asian	6.5%
Filipino	3.4%
Unknown	4.5%
Pacific Islander	.5%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	.4%
Hispanic/Latino	67%



### Enrollment by Age (Spring 2022)

25–29:	16%
20–24:	29%
19 or less:	23%
30–34:	11%
40–49:	7%
50+:	8%
35–39:	6%



Source: Cerritos College Financial Aid Office

### Financial Aid (2021–22)

Approximately **54%** of Cerritos College students receive financial aid. The College disbursed more than **\$82 million** in financial aid\* and more than **\$28 million** in CARES ACT funds.

\*Includes California College Promise Grant and HEERF

# YOUR BOND DOLLARS AT WORK

In 2012, voters approved Cerritos College's \$350 million General Obligation Bond measure (Measure G) to modernize the 65-year-old campus. The College is currently updating classrooms, technology infrastructure, and computer labs; repairing and replacing aging facilities; upgrading job-training facilities; and improving classrooms to accommodate growing workforce demands. Through Measure G, the College is also developing

and building energy efficient and sustainable designs that will provide an eco-friendly learning environment for years to come.

Bond funds are also being used to implement the College's Facilities Master Plan.

For more information about the College's construction programs, visit [www.cerritos.edu/master-plan](http://www.cerritos.edu/master-plan).

## CURRENT PROJECTS

### Performing Arts Center

The new Performing Arts Center opened its doors on July 14, 2022.

The 84,000-square-foot structure boasts a 400-seat theater, a 200-seat black box performance area, a 100-seat large lecture and recital hall, general-purpose classrooms, a computer lab, and support spaces. The Performing Arts Center also houses the Music Department's instructional labs, band and choir rooms, teaching and practice rooms, and faculty offices.

The state-of-the-art facility features Yamaha and Böesendorfer grand pianos, purchased with a generous \$500,000 gift from former professor of music, the late Dr. Connie Mayfield, and her mother Lois Mayfield. Dr. Mayfield's love of music will live on with generations of students through these top-of-the-line instruments.

The facility meets the sustainability requirements of the U.S. Green Building Council and is the second green-certified project funded through the bond construction program.



## UPCOMING PROJECTS



### Health Science Renovation (Measure G + State funding)

Built in 1974, The Health Science Building is home to the Cosmetology and Health Occupations programs. Through Measure G and state funding, the building will be seismically retrofitted and renovated to be more efficient, accessible, and sustainable. This will also include modernizing facilities to serve students and the community. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2022, with completion slated for spring 2025.

### Student Services and Administration Center

The Student Services and Administration Center will become the new gateway to Cerritos College. The project will replace the current Administration, Bookstore, and Public Affairs buildings, centralizing departments currently dispersed around campus.

The design process for the Student Services and Administration Center began in 2019 and is currently in plan check through fall 2022. Demolition of the Burnight Theater, originally constructed in the mid-1960s, and the Public Affairs building, developed in the early 2000s, took place last fall. The Bookstore is expected to be demolished in late summer/fall 2022 and includes soil improvement to prepare the site for the new buildings.

# Cerritos College Health & Wellness Complex



Completed in 2020, the Health & Wellness Complex consists of six buildings: Athletic Team Room Building, Dance Building, Fitness Building, Conference Center, Health Services Building, and a Physical Education Building. The 76,000-square-foot facility centralizes essential functions of the Kinesiology department, including fitness labs, cardio workout and training rooms, multi-purpose studios, and offices.

The Complex also houses the Student Health Center, an accessible, efficient facility where students can receive quality health care services.

The first green-certified project through the bond construction program, the Health & Wellness Complex meets sustainability requirements outlined by the U.S. Green Building Council.

## Student Health Services

The Cerritos College Student Health Services (SHS) is staffed by board-certified nurse practitioners, certified medical assistants, and a dietician. It offers free or cost-effective, high-quality health care services and wellness resources, including basic outpatient services, mental health support, family planning, and dietary support, among others.

For more information, stop by Student Health Services or visit online at [www.cerritos.edu/shs](http://www.cerritos.edu/shs).



## Faculty/Student Quotes:

*"The new Health and Kinesiology classrooms offer significant improvements from the facilities and classrooms that were built in 1950. All the classrooms are SMART classrooms and include interactive document readers. The teaching lab provides the students with the ability to apply skills in first aid, athletic training, and fitness assessments. The interactive Anatomage Table further enhances students' learning about the human body and physiology."*

— Ni Bueno, Ed.D., health education department chair

*"Your services are the best. I prefer to come here than my own doctor."*

*"I love the people in the health center. They are so nice."*

*"I feel comfortable talking to the staff at the health center."*

— Students' messages to the certified medical assistants

## Programs Offered in the Health & Wellness Complex

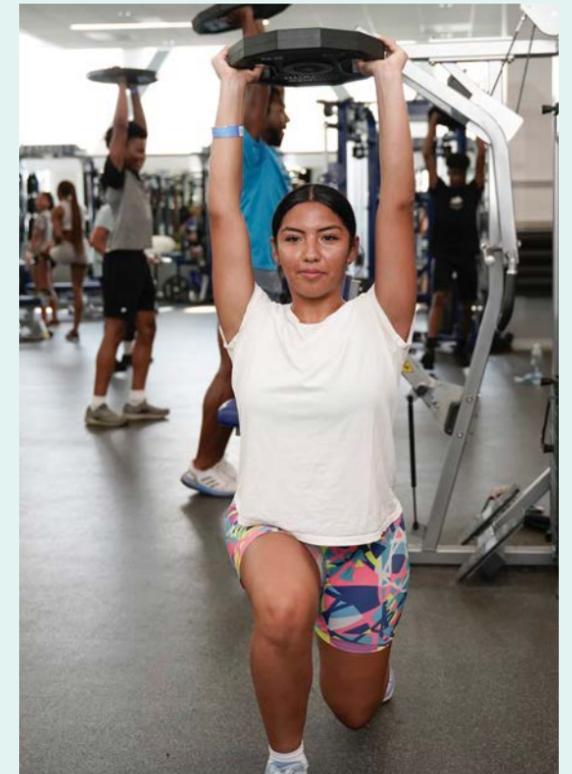
**Dance** — A full dance program with studies in introduction to dance, modern, ballet, commercial, and world dance, as well as courses in dance appreciation, history, composition, technology, partnering and performance.

**Health Education** — Students can gain knowledge of concepts related to healthy living, lifelong wellness, stress-reduction techniques, and an understanding of physical fitness components through a Community Health Worker Certificate of Achievement. The program allows students to begin working as community health workers while continuing their education towards an A.A. degree in Health Education, AS-T in Public Health Science, or A.A. degree in Nursing.

**Kinesiology** — Introduces students to various aspects of kinesiology, such as athletic injury assessment, principles of fitness and wellness, sports psychology, and movement analysis. The program offers an Associate of Art Degree in Kinesiology, Fitness Specialist Certificate, or Athletic Trainer Aide Certificate. Students may also prepare for several national certifications in fitness, strength and conditioning, and athletic training. Each program provides students with transfer options in various study areas.

**Physical Education** — Students can gain an introductory knowledge of the fundamental principles of physical education, physical activity, sport, and exercise, as well as the application of these principles to overall health, wellness, and quality of life. Such knowledge leads to employment in parks and recreation, fitness, and coaching.

**Athletics** — Over the course of its history, Cerritos College has captured 51 California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) state championships, with more than half of them (27) won since 2000. The program offers 18 sports, nine for men and nine for women. In the Fall of 2023, Cerritos will be competing in the inaugural season of women's wrestling.



## Athlete Spotlight

**Freshmen Richere Leduc and Samantha Islas** (softball) were both named All-State. Samantha was also voted South Coast Conference Pitcher of the Year.

**Freshman Kaya Glynn** (women's swimming) was named **All-American** in the 200-yard butterfly.



Richere Leduc



Samantha Islas



Kaya Glynn

## Fine Arts Complex and Mathematics/Computer Information Sciences Building

Completed in 2017, the Fine Arts Complex was funded by Measure G Bond dollars. The 55,000 square-foot facility boasts high-tech equipment to enhance student learning in 3D design, animation, digital media, film production, and web design. The building's exterior features metal paneling to reflect Piet Mondrian, an abstract painter noted for his unique painting using horizontal and vertical lines and primary colors.

Funded by Measure CC Bond dollars, the Math/CIS Building was also completed in 2017. The building features classrooms, labs, and study centers for the mathematics and CIS departments.

The two buildings are connected by an open breezeway and meet the California Green Building Standards Code CALGreen for energy efficiency.

### Programs Offered in the Fine Arts Complex

**Art Gallery** — selected among the 15 best college art galleries in Southern California by *LA Weekly* in 2018, the gallery showcases student artists, faculty, and local artists in various installations.

**Art and Design** — offers various programs in art history, ceramics, drawing and painting, printmaking, graphic design, studio arts, digital arts-computer animation, and visual and cultural studies to prepare students for art and design careers.

**Mass Communications** — offers degree and certificate programs in journalism; public relations; film, TV & electronic media; and film production.

**Photography** — offers a degree and verification of completion programs to prepare students for careers in photography.

**Film Studio** — houses a classroom and the adjacent sound stage. The studio features traditional film equipment including still and motion picture cameras for students to learn the fundamentals of motion picture filmmaking, as well as digital cameras.

### Programs Offered in the Math/CIS Building

**Mathematics** — offers degree and transfer programs to provide a practical and theoretical understanding for future studies involving mathematics such as science, engineering, and human affairs, and offers various courses that meet A.A. degree requirements. The building houses a math study room to provide a dedicated quiet space for students. Tutoring and workshops are offered in the Library Success Center.

**Computer and Information Sciences** — offers degree and certificate programs that prepare students for careers in the information technology (IT) industry as well as to transfer to a four-year university. All classrooms are equipped with dual projection screens and a smart podium with audio and visual support and an instructor's workstation with a laptop plug-in. An Active Learning Classroom allows mobile devices or laptops to share screens, allowing students to share and collaborate on many activities in the class and facilitating student-centered learning with peer-to-peer collaboration and interactive learning.



### Faculty/Student Quotes:

*"I've learned so much from taking the film production classes at Cerritos College and through the internships to get invaluable training. The skills I've gained prepared me to go out and work professionally. I am currently filming a documentary overseas."*

— Annabel Ramirez, film production alumna

*"The new Math/CIS Building made a significant upgrade to the CIS department with cloud computing lab infrastructure known as NetLab, which allows some of our computing and networking lab resources to be available to serve students 24/7 without the need for students to purchase additional software or hardware. Students can access the computing and network lab resources by simply using a web browser. The modernized CIS classrooms created new opportunities for our students and programs."*

— Kenny Lou, computer information sciences professor

## Liberal Arts/ Student Accessibility Services Building

Completed in 2014, the new 40,000-square-foot, two-story building at the Northwest corner of Alondra Boulevard and Studebaker Avenue has drastically changed the landscape of the College and Norwalk/Cerritos community and provides an improved learning environment and support services to enhance student success. The facility houses the Liberal Arts division classrooms and the Student Accessibility Services (SAS).

### Programs Offered in the Liberal Arts/ Student Accessibility Services Building

**Student Accessibility Services** — offers support services and instruction to students with limitations due to a disability, including students with physical, visual, hearing, speech, mental health, learning, and intellectual disabilities as well as other health conditions, acquired brain injuries, autism, and ADHD. The first floor features a large reception area that better serves students, an instructional classroom with computers and interactive whiteboards, and a computer laboratory equipped with assistive technology.

**English** — offers general education writing requirements, literature or creative writing classes for transfer credit, degree/transfer programs, and a creative writing certificate.

**English as a Second Language** — offers courses for students who speak English in addition to another language by addressing some of the specific challenges that multilingual students face in an academic environment. ESL also offers tutors and workshops in the Library Success Center.

**Modern Languages** — offers Spanish, French, Japanese, German, Chinese, and American Sign Language degree/transfer programs including state-of-the-art language technology to educate students to be competitive in a multicultural and multilingual global community.



**Reading** — offers classes so that students learn critical thinking and critical reading skills to demonstrate the ability to analyze, interpret, criticize, and advocate ideas encountered in academic readings.



### Faculty/Student Quotes:

*"When I moved here seven years ago, I was full of fear, doubts, and uncertainty. Since then, I have earned my degree in communication studies, volunteered to work with both my local community and international programs, and now I have a successful career. The ESL program at Cerritos College taught me a new language, but also helped me build the confidence I needed while I immersed myself in a new culture. I would not have come this far if it was not for the ESL department and its faculty."*

— Marisol Gallardo, ESL alumna

*"The new SAS building brought everyone from the department together under one roof. Previously, the department was split between two other locations on campus. Having all components of the program together in the same building has been much more convenient for students."*

— Elizabeth Page, SAS associate professor/  
counselor



*"Our new Student Accessibility Services (SAS) facility is a state-of-the-art, universally designed, student-centered space that truly sets the standard for others to follow. The High Tech Center with dual SMART Boards that uses touch detection for user input, a distraction-reduced Test Taking Center, dedicated space for in-house alternative media processing such as Braille and Audio Books, and a SMART classroom with interactive student technology stations."*

— Irving Bartikofsky, SAS associate professor/  
disability specialist



**Cerritos Community College District**  
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## Cerritos College Mission

Cerritos College provides its diverse student population with high-quality, comprehensive instructional programs and support services through clear, equity-minded pathways to their educational goals. In doing so, the college develops culturally competent students with the knowledge, skills, and values that prepare them to be productive members of their local and global communities.



### Administration

**Jose L. Fierro, D.V.M., Ph.D.**  
 President/Superintendent

**Wei Zhou, Ph.D.**  
 Vice President  
 Academic Affairs/  
 Assistant Superintendent

**Felipe Lopez**  
 Vice President  
 Business Services/  
 Assistant Superintendent

**Mercedes Gutierrez, Ed.D.**  
 Vice President  
 Human Resources/  
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**Robyn Brammer, Ph.D.**  
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*Cerritos College is fully accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.*

