Cerritos College’s iFalcon Program Honored as Top Student Success Program in California Community Colleges

Cerritos College received the 2011 Student Success Award from the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office for its student success program iFalcon. The award honors a college that has demonstrated significant progress toward achieving student equity goals and success for all students.

Cerritos College was recognized for its innovative technology-based iFalcon program that aims to increase success for all students while working to close the achievement gap for those historically underrepresented in higher education.

Established in 2009 with funding from a federal Title V grant, the iFalcon campaign promotes a campus culture of learning in which the habits of mind of successful students are replicated throughout the curriculum and student body.

Since the program’s inception, the iFalcon principles have been incorporated into new student orientations, counseling classes, syllabi, classroom and club activities, weekly newsletters, video clips, online polls and blogs to engage students. The iFalcon scholarship and iFalcon Club have also been established to support students.

The 2008 and 2010 Accountability Reporting for the Community Colleges (ARCC) reports show that Cerritos students are improving academically. This improvement is attributed to the iFalcon campaign. Students are taking ownership of their education at Cerritos College.

Cerritos College Observes 10th Anniversary of 9/11

The Associated Students of Cerritos College hosted a 9/11 remembrance event “Celebrate America” on September 12.

Over one hundred students, faculty, staff and administrators gathered to commemorate the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and celebrate the anniversary of the United States Constitution. Attendees were joined by firefighters, law enforcement officers, and officials and members of the military.

Two fire trucks were on display by the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and a fire hydrant retrieved from the rubble of the World Trade Center was brought by the Los Angeles County Fire Museum in Bellflower. (www.clafma.org)
Welcome to the Spring 2012 issue of InSight. Within this publication, you will find information about a few of the many exceptional individuals and programs that make Cerritos College an institution of excellence. The combination of our talented students and faculty never fails to produce impressive results.

Cerritos College engages in creative partnerships with industry, educational, and community groups to strengthen its programs and services in response to current business and workforce needs, and to support students transferring to four-year universities. We take pride in our long history of providing affordable, high-quality education and training for our community.

Cerritos College is also dedicated to improving the learning environment of its students by continuously updating campus facilities. The renovation of several campus buildings and other projects are funded through the passage of local Measure CC which provides bond funds for facilities construction and renovation to enhance our educational environment.

As you read the articles and updates in this issue, please remember that as your community college we are here to serve you in a variety of capacities to support all of your educational and professional pursuits. In the face of ongoing budget cuts and increasing student fees and costs, every grant and donation we receive is even more important in providing our students with the services they need to succeed. Please visit the Cerritos College Foundation website at www.cerritos.edu/foundation to learn about its Planned Giving program.

We are honored and committed to providing our community with the best learning environment possible, and thank you for your continued support.

Dr. Linda L. Lacy
President/Superintendent

Cerritos College Hosts a Successful Mental Health Panel

Congresswoman Napolitano and Ozomatli speak to students about youth mental health

Cerritos College hosted a mental health panel with Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (D-CA) and widely acclaimed Los Angeles band Ozomatli on November 10.

At the panel, the Congresswoman spoke about the Mental Health in Schools Act, which provides funding for mental health services at schools. The panel also discussed mental health resources available on campus and in the community as well as the college’s Mental Health Worker program.

Raul Pacheco and Ulises Bella from Ozomatli joined the Congresswoman in speaking to the students about resources available to help young people through difficult times. Ozomatli credits group therapy for much of the success they have experienced over their 15-year career. Pacheco and Bella encouraged the students to seek mental health care if needed, and not be ashamed or embarrassed to ask for help because of the stigma associated with mental health.

Student panelist Laura Munro shared her experience navigating her life through mentally tough times by seeking help. She cofounded the student peer support group Active Minds that helps students with mental health issues. Munro, a psychology major, is now on the Dean’s List and the President’s List.

Other panelists included Linda Boyd, Ph.D., L.A. County Department of Mental Health; Dr. Luis Garcia, Pacific Clinics; Michelle Lewellen, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Director of the Mental Health Worker program, Cerritos College; Nancy Montgomery, Associate Dean of Student Health & Wellness, Cerritos College; and Dawn Vo-Jutabha, Ph.D., Division Director, Mental Health Services Training.

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Cerritos College Adopts Changes to Trustee Election System

At its meeting on December 7, 2011, the Cerritos Community College District Board of Trustees adopted Plan 1B creating seven trustee areas so that trustees are elected from established trustee areas and no longer at-large throughout the college district.

The board took this action to comply with the California Voting Rights Act and the Federal Voting Rights Act. Plan 1B was one of three drafts that had been submitted for consideration in a process that began last spring.

This action was taken after a lengthy review and discussion of the proposed plan. Members of the public provided comments and suggestions at two regularly scheduled board meetings (November 2, 2011 and December 7, 2011).

Currently, board members are elected at-large by registered voters in the district. With trustee area elections, voters may only elect board members who reside in their particular trustee area.

Four-year seats and one two-year seat will be up for election in November 2012 representing five of the new trustee areas. The two-year seat is to fill the remainder of the term held by the late Bob Epplie. This two-year seat will resume its pattern of four-year terms in 2014 along with the remaining two board seats not on the 2012 ballot.

The change from at-large elections to trustee area elections will be reviewed as required by new state legislation by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges at a meeting in the spring. Upon approval, the plan will be ready for the Los Angeles County Registrar to implement for the November 2012 election.

Adopted Plan 1B can be viewed at http://cms.cerritos.edu/uploads/Board/BoardBooks/LGDR_Cerritos_CCD_10_31_2011.pdf

Dental Hygiene Students Provide Free Dental Cleaning

Twenty-one senior students in the Dental Hygiene program provided free dental cleaning to those in need at the CareNow LA event held at the L.A. Sports Arena on October 21.

The event provided free medical, dental, and vision services to the uninsured, underinsured, and underserved in the Los Angeles community.

Dr. Mehmet Oz, host of the Dr. Oz Show was on hand, lending support and encouragement at the event. As he visited the dental area, Dr. Oz showed his appreciation to the Cerritos College students for their hard work and volunteerism. Students in the Cerritos College Dental Hygiene program regularly volunteer in the community.

Turkeys Come to CARE

In keeping with the program’s tradition, the students of the Cerritos College Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) received turkeys on November 22 to complement their Thanksgiving dinner.

The CARE program distributed 40 turkeys this year. “We have been very fortunate to have this Thanksgiving tradition for over 12 years,” said Marcia Chaney, CARE coordinator.

One student commented that “without this turkey, my kids and I would not have had one.” Another student added, “This act of kindness means so much to me and my children.”

The CARE program is part of the college’s Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) and provides resources and support necessary for disadvantaged, single, head of household, and CalWORKs recipients to improve their educational opportunities. To learn more about CARE, visit http://www.cccco.edu/ChancellorsOffice/Divisions/StudentServicesandSpecialPrograms/CARE/tabid/589/Default.aspx

Astronomy Students Observe a Near-Earth Asteroid

The 26 students of Dr. Thad Szabó’s Astronomy 105 class got a hands-on lesson they will never forget.

Setting up large telescopes, they observed the historic passage of an aircraft carrier-sized asteroid on November 8.

This is the first time information about one of these asteroids was made available ahead of time. The class was able to set up and photograph it as it passed, according to Dr. Szabo. He took full advantage of the information for his students to get the once-in-a-lifetime experience.

“You can’t see it with naked eye, but when it shows up this big on a computer screen, you get the feel for it and how massive it is,” said student Chris Rodriguez. KNBC-TV was on campus to interview students and the footage aired on the evening news. Link to the footage: http://www.nbcla.com/video/9/on-air-as-seen-on/Tracking-an-Asteroid/13520168

Watch the video of the flying asteroid Dr. Szabo put together: http://www.youtube.asteroid.la/watch?v=KMLr22antxI

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Upcoming New Building Construction

New Liberal Arts/DSP&S Building
Plans have been approved by the Division of State Architects. (Proposed design is above and to the right) Construction is expected to start in fall 2012.

New Fine Arts and CIS/Math Building
Programming/design to commence in the first quarter of 2012.

Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee Gains New Members

The Cerritos College Board of Trustees appointed three new members to the Cerritos College Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee.

Lisa Ann Rapp, a resident of Downey and Director of Public Works for the City of Lakewood, was appointed on August 10. Student member Justin McIntyre and retired Cerritos College Director of Fiscal Services Lola Rizkallah were appointed on December 7.
Gymnasium Renovation
Piers are being installed. Interior electrical, plumbing, metal stud framing, and roof substructure reinforcement are underway. It is expected to be complete in summer 2012.

Fire Alarm Upgrades and Mass Notification System
Two of five phases are complete. Phase three is expected to start in February 2012. Phase four and five are expected to start later in 2012.

Old Swimming Pool Demolition/Site
Completed summer 2011.

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Old Physical Science Building
The building is being renovated for Business Education. Plans have been approved by the Division of State Architects. Construction is expected to start in the first quarter of 2012.

Old Technology Building
Three classrooms are being modernized for Computer Information Sciences. Plans are in review for approval. Construction is expected to start in the first quarter of 2012.

North-South Fire Lane
Completed summer 2011.

Automotive Technology Complex
Completed in December 2011 for spring 2012 semester use.

Facilities & Purchasing Complex
Completed fall 2011.

Baseball Field Renovation
Completed summer 2011.

Softball Field Renovation
Plans are currently in review for approval. Construction is expected to start in the summer of 2012.

Physical Science & Technology Building
Completed summer 2011.

Old Physical Science Building
The building is being renovated for Business Education. Plans have been approved by the Division of State Architects. Construction is expected to start in the first quarter of 2012.

Old Swimming Pool Demolition/Site
Completed summer 2011.

Tennis Court Renovation
Completed summer 2011.

“The Cerritos College Woodworking program introduced me to a great network of resources - not only the masterful instructors, but also industry contacts, professional organizations, and fellow students that provided help and support.”

Visit his website to view his artistic creations: http://jrusten.com/

Ivy Mendoza, Theatre Arts (Radio – Television) – landed her dream job as the promotions/special events coordinator at Univision – the company she has yearned to work with since she was a child.

“I discovered my true passion at Cerritos College, and I have had the opportunity to meet and network with amazing people who genuinely want me to succeed in life, and to whom I am tremendously grateful.”

Mendoza never forgets where she came from. She continues to work on her show at WPMD, Cerritos College’s radio station, and celebrated her four-year anniversary in November.

Marie Marroquin, Biology - The mother of three worked continuously for 30 years to support and raise her children but deep down she never gave up on her dream of furthering her education. She started as a part-time student at Cerritos College in the summer of 2005, became a full-time student a few years later and took a more active role on campus. Her education was solely funded with her savings and earnings from work until early 2010, when she continued with help from scholarships.

She transferred to the University of Southern California in fall 2011 thanks to a generous university grant. She continues to volunteer as a tutor for children who are falling behind in math at a middle school.

“My experiences at Cerritos College have been of personal growth and of social awareness. They have led my journey to become a more active member in my community which played a major role in my decision to become a physician.”

Cerritos College Receives Subaru donation for Import Technician Training Program

Cerritos College’s Center for Advanced Transportation Technology received a high performance engine donated by Subaru of America on August 12.

Subaru’s Field Service Training Manager Don Heck and District Parts & Service Manager Dan Page presented the engine to the college’s Automotive Instructor Leonard Glick.

The 2.5 liter H4 Boxer engine came from the 2008 Impreza STI that starred alongside Vin Diesel in the 2009 film Fast and Furious.

Subaru’s generosity toward Cerritos College is nothing new. The company donated scholarship funds for auto students in 2010 and is planning to pledge additional funds this year.
Healthy living is taking root in the garden of the Child Development Center at Cerritos College. The Cerritos College Child Development Center was awarded Jamba Juice’s It’s All About the Fruit grant from the National Gardening Association. The Center was one of 20 winners chosen from a pool of more than 500 applicants. The $500 award was used to purchase and plant fruit trees at the Center.

In summer 2011, four blueberry bushes and nine fruit tree saplings were planted. The fruit trees are incorporated into the Center’s current gardening curriculum, which includes watering, pruning, and feeding the trees. When harvested, the fruit will be used in snacks and lunches for children.

Cerritos College was awarded a $3.8 million HSI-STEM grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and articulation program. The purpose of this grant is to increase the number of Hispanic and other low-income students attaining degrees in STEM fields and to develop model transfer and articulation agreements between the 2-year and 4-year HSIs in these fields.

Cerritos College Receives $3.8 million HSI-STEM Grant

The grant, which will be paid out over five years, finances the college’s pilot program of A.A. degree attainment and university STEM transfer, concentrating on the high-need areas of computer science and environmental science.

Cerritos College Hall of Fame

Cerritos College recently established the Cerritos College Hall of Fame to honor, pay tribute to and perpetuate the recognition of individuals who, either through participation, support, or interest, have made outstanding contributions in the field of intercollegiate athletics and/or have helped to bring recognition, honor, distinction, and excellence to Cerritos College.

Distinguished individuals from the following categories will be recognized at the inaugural induction ceremony at the Sheraton Cerritos on April 12, 2012:

• Athletics (Male Athlete, Female Athlete, Coach/Administrator, Supporter, and Team State Champion)
• Distinguished Alumnus
• Distinguished Classified/Confidential
• Distinguished Faculty

A Corporate Partner will also be selected by the Foundation Executive Board and inducted into the Hall of Fame.

For questions and more information about the Alumni Association and the Cerritos College Hall of Fame, please contact Rachel Samarin, Cerritos College Foundation, (562) 860-2451 ext. 2539.
Cerritos College

New Associate Degrees Benefit Cerritos College Transfer Students
Degrees approved include sociology and communication studies

Cerritos College now offers associate degrees for transfer in sociology and communication studies, as a result of the Student Transfer Agreement Reform Act (SB 1440 – Padilla).

The bill guarantees admission to the California State University system at the junior level for students who complete an SB 1440 compliant degree. Furthermore, students are given priority consideration when applying to a particular program that is similar to the student’s community college major.

Under this new law, the CSUs are prohibited from requiring transfer students from repeating similar courses already completed.

“The inconsistent and duplicate course requirements to transfer frustrate students,” said Cerritos College Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Marilyn Brock. “This will increase the number of students who successfully transfer from community colleges to CSUs and earn bachelor’s degrees in less time.”

The college’s administration of justice, English, and psychology programs are currently preparing to offer similar opportunities to students.

Summer Enrollment begins April 12, 2012

Applying for the Summer 2012 Semester?
Act Early!

Below you will find some tips for new students from three experts in the key student services areas. Act early and reduce the impact on your educational plans. Class space is limited and classes are filling quickly.

Apply Early

“Students who are enrolling for the first time, or who are returning after an absence of one or more semesters, must complete an admissions application as early as possible prior to the start of enrollment,” said Stephanie Murguia, Dean of Admissions, Records & Services.

Complete “A.O.C.” (Assessment, Orientation, and Counseling)

Beginning spring 2012, eligible students who have never attended any college will be required to complete assessment, orientation, and counseling prior to enrollment. Please view the Spring 2012 Student Advisory Notice here: http://cms.cerritos.edu/uploads/Counseling/AOC_Advisory.pdf

Enroll and Pay Early

“You are encouraged to enroll as soon as possible for your classes. Be sure to check MyCerritos to view your enrollment appointment and a list of open classes. Plan for alternate classes should your first choices for classes be closed,” said Murguia. “Be aware that you must pay your enrollment fees within seven days (the count starts the day you enroll) to avoid being dropped from your classes. Protect your enrollment and pay fees in a timely manner.”

Seek Financial Assistance

“Students who have not yet considered or applied for financial aid are strongly encouraged to visit the Cerritos College Financial Aid webpage at www.cerritos.edu/finaid or to contact the Financial Aid office,” said Kim Westby, Dean of Student Support Services. “Financial aid opportunities may assist you in paying for your educational expenses.”

Find class schedule on the web:
http://www.cerritos.edu/schedule

Find catalog on the web:
http://www.cerritos.edu/catalog

*Class schedule and catalog are now only available online

Find new student information:
http://www.cerritos.edu/newstudents

Administration

Dr. Linda L. Lacy
President/Superintendent

David El Fattal
Vice President of Business Services/Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Marilyn Brock
Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs/Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Stephen B. Johnson
Vice President of Student Services/Assistant Superintendent

Victor Collins
Interim Vice President of Human Resources

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Member

Dr. Ted Edmiston
Member

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Member

Jean McHatton
Member

Areal Hughes
Student Member

Cerritos College is fully accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.