

# Calendar of Events

## FEBRUARY

1 - 19	Art Gallery Exhibition: KKY-151.2
2	15-Week Intrasession Begins
13	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday Observance - COLLEGE CLOSED
16	George Washington's Birthday Observance - COLLEGE CLOSED
24	Symphonic Winds Exchange Concert, Student Center, 7 p.m.
27	Orchestra Exchange Concert, Student Center, 7 p.m.
29	Faculty Gala Concert, Burnight Theatre, 2 p.m.

## MARCH- Celebrating Women's History Month (WHM)

3	Jazz Exchange Concert, Student Center, 7 p.m.
7 - 31	Art Gallery Exhibition: Student/Faculty Photos, Art Gallery
5 - 6	"The House of Bernarda Alba", Burnight Theatre, 8 p.m.
8	Concert Band Exchange Concert, Student Center, 7 p.m.
11 - 14	"The House of Bernarda Alba", Burnight Theatre (call for times)
15	WHM Keynote Address: Dolores C. Huerta, Burnight Theatre, 11 a.m.
15	Second 9-Week Session Begins
17	International Business Panel, Teleconference Center, 11 a.m.
23	Breast Cancer Awareness Walk, Falcon Square, 11 a.m.
25	6th Annual Advisory Recognition Breakfast, Student Center, 7:30 a.m.
26	Scott Henderson Memorial Scholarship Concert, Burnight Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

For more WHM events, visit the website at [www.cerritos.edu/events](http://www.cerritos.edu/events).

## APRIL

5 - 9	Spring Break - NO CLASSES
9	Good Friday Observance - COLLEGE CLOSED
15	Nursing Fair, Student Center, 9:30 a.m.
19	Concert Band Exchange Concert, Student Center, 7 p.m.
19 - 30	Art Gallery Exhibition: Student Fine Art, Art Gallery
20	Symphonic Winds Exchange Concert, Student Center, 7 p.m.
23	Senior Preview Day, Falcon Square, 9 a.m.
23	Orchestra Exchange Concert, Student Center, 7 p.m.
28	Jazz Exchange Concert, Student Center, 7 p.m.
29	Career Expo Partnership, Student Center, 10 a.m.



## Cerritos College

11110 Alondra Blvd.  
Norwalk, CA 90650  
(562) 860-2451  
[www.cerritos.edu](http://www.cerritos.edu)



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## MAY

1 - 2	"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum", Burnight Theatre, Dinner 6:30 p.m. (call for times)
1 - 13	Art Gallery Exhibition: Student Fine Art, Art Gallery
4	8th Annual Chamber Mega Mixer, Student Center, 5 p.m.
6 - 9	"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum", Burnight Theatre (call for times)
13	Teacher TRAC Graduation, Administration Quad, 6 p.m.
14	High School Choral Festival, Burnight Theatre, 5 p.m.
14	Jazz & Pop Spring Concert, Student Center, 7 p.m.
15	Commencement, Falcon Stadium, 5 p.m.
21	Spring Semester Ends
23	Band Concert, Burnight Theatre, 7:30 p.m.
24	First 6-Week Summer Session Begins
24	First 8-Week Summer Session Begins
31	Memorial Day - COLLEGE CLOSED

## JUNE

21	Second 8-Week Summer Session Begins
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## JULY

4	Independence Day Observance - COLLEGE CLOSED
6	Second 8-Week Summer Session Begins
15	Touchtone and Web Registration for Fall Semester begins

## AUGUST

2	19th Annual Foundation Golf Classic, Friendly Hills Country Club, Whittier
13	Summer Session Ends
16	Fall Semester Begins



ECRWSS

Residential Customer, Local

# Cerritos College



Heralding Good News to the Residents of the Cerritos College District

Volume 4 January 2004

## Cerritos College Soon to Celebrate 50 Years in the Making

When Cerritos College was first established on June 10, 1955, no one could have imagined what a symbol it would become in the local community. In fact, in 1963 Dr. Ralph Burnight (who later became the first president of the college) met with the State Board of Education to discuss establishing a college and was told that it was doubtful that the [local school] District could attract an enrollment of 400 students. Discouraged, but not defeated, Burnight believed the area would grow over time.

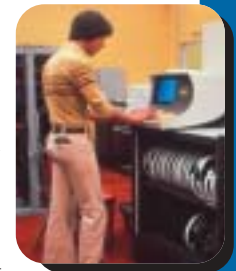


Classes began in September of 1956 in rooms rented from the Excelsior High School District with a total enrollment of 197 students—a mere fraction of the 24,000 students currently enrolled. During the first semester, 10 certified teachers offered instruction in a mere 15 subjects. Courses were held at Artesia High School from 4 to 10 p.m. In 1957, Cerritos College reached a milestone enrollment of 1,339 students, and in 1959 the college moved out of high school classrooms and onto its current campus, which had only eight buildings at the time.

The sixties and seventies were times of more student growth and campus expansion. The college's bicentennial year was one that defined its success.



Twenty-five years earlier, the 135-acre campus had been in its infancy, and educational visionaries had conservatively predicted that by 1975, more than 15,000 students would be learning



in classrooms that then existed only on the architect's drawing boards. What their modest forecast failed to see was a much greater need in the community than they had initially imagined. In 1970-71 enrollment exceeded the predicted 15,000 students, and by 1975 there were nearly 23,000 students enrolled.

With its 25th anniversary in 1980, Cerritos College had educated nearly 250,000 students since it first opened its doors at Excelsior High School. In 1986, the college received its first ever Federal Title III grant for \$500,000 renewable for five years, totaling \$2.5 million in additional funding.

Today, Cerritos College has far exceeded the initial expectations of its founders and critics alike. A highly diverse campus, Cerritos College is the eighth largest Hispanic-serving community college in the nation. Additionally, the campus is home to nearly 400 international students representing 39 countries.

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With the turn-of-the-millennium, expansion has taken on a whole new face at Cerritos College. Along with renovations to many older buildings, Cerritos College has also developed several global partnerships with the aid of technology, thereby introducing the college to a new kind of classroom—a virtual one.

“E-learning” has become extremely beneficial to education in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, as cross-cultural educational opportunities have become somewhat more complicated. In late 1999, a partnership began between Cerritos College and the University of Wisconsin-Stout (UW-Stout). The two colleges began to hold joint class sessions in real-time with the use of a TV screen and the Internet. Not only did this allow for Cerritos College students to exchange ideas with students in another part of the country, but it also allowed Cerritos’ ethnically diverse student body to exchange points of view on United States history with the predominately Caucasian population at UW-Stout.

In 2003, the concept of the virtual classroom once again expanded, and Cerritos College entered into a similar partnership with International Pacific College (IPC) in New Zealand. For the first time at Cerritos College, two hemispheres were connected in real-time, and students were able to participate in multi-national approaches to world



history. Both the partnership with UW-Stout and IPC also allowed a handful of Cerritos students to visit their partner campuses and experience “hands on” what they had been experiencing via technology.

As Cerritos College serves the communities of Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, Lakewood, La Mirada and Norwalk, it is also serves locations in Wisconsin and New Zealand.

With technology on the rise, Cerritos College is raising the bar in global partnerships and directly affecting globalization in education by forging into international education right here at home. Much has happened in the past 50 years,

and the college hopes to continue to expand to meet the community’s needs in the next 50 years. A comprehensive anniversary celebration is currently being planned for fall 2005. Former Cerritos College president (1973-1986) Dr. Wilford Michael and former philosophy professor (1968-2003) Dr. Ed Bloomfield are honorary co-chairs for the event.

“Cerritos College has been such a major part of my life,” Bloomfield said. “Now that I’m retired, [being on the anniversary committee] keeps me involved with the college, which I love.”

Bloomfield, who chaired the 40th anniversary celebration in 1995, taught philosophy at Cerritos College for 35 years.

His career highlights include serving as commencement speaker in 2000 and receiving the inaugural ‘Outstanding Faculty’ award.

Bloomfield views Cerritos College as a place that changes people’s lives, and as a place that touches generations. He recounts the time several decades ago, when a student called to tell him she couldn’t find a babysitter for her infant daughter and that she wouldn’t be able to attend the final exam. Always willing to go the extra mile for a student’s success, Bloomfield volunteered to watch the child while the mother took her final.

Fast-forward to twenty years later. The “baby”—now a young woman—attended Bloomfield’s class ready to learn from the man who babysat her during her mother’s final exam.

Dr. Michael also has fond memories of his days at the college.

“I hope the next 50 years are as good or better,” he said. “I have a lot of good memories.”

Michael and his wife, Jean, still attend Cerritos College sporting events and student activities whenever they can and give generously to the Cerritos College Foundation in order to help students by providing scholarships. Michaels’ wife has a scholarship established in her name (the Jean O. Michael scholarship) that is awarded annually.

Cerritos College brings to mind fond memories for many in the local community. The past 50 years have been marked with excellence, and the college plans to hallmark the next 50 years with even greater excellence. ♪



## ‘Learning Communities’ Offers New Program to Incoming Students

Adjusting to college can be hard, and for many students the overwhelming pressures that mount become reason enough to drop out of school entirely. Seeing this problem, and wanting to eradicate it, the Cerritos College Learning Communities Program launched a pilot program in the fall of 2003 entitled, “First Year Experience.”

Modeled after a 30-year tradition at the University of South Carolina, the program parallels course offerings such as “Freshman Seminar” or “University Life.”

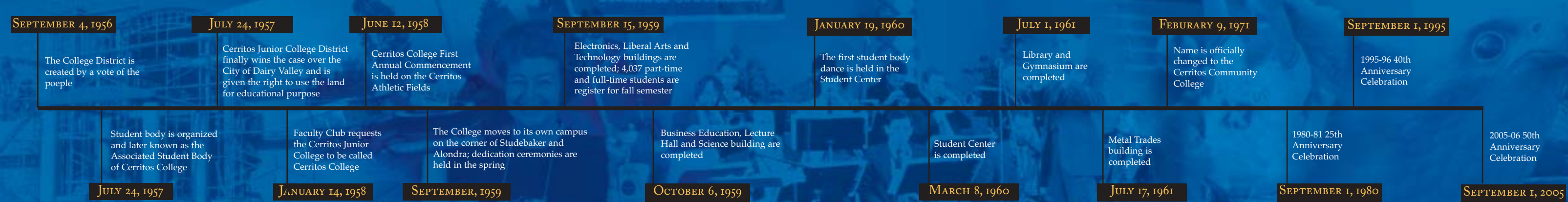
This particular rendition of the concept allows students at Cerritos to adapt to college by placing them in a unit-type atmosphere where all of their classes meet in the same classroom and are taken with the same students. This system provides the comfort of a “home-like” environment and a family atmosphere.

Students must qualify by taking placement testing and signing a one-semester contract agreeing to complete the course track and commit to classroom performance. “The goal of the program,” said Ana Torres-Bower, “is a 100-percent retention rate.” Torres-Bower, a professor of philosophy and a facilitator of this program, also said that 80 students will be selected for the program, with 40 being placed in each of the two groups.

“The beauty of this program,” Torres-Bower said, “is that at a time of budget constraints we are starting a very good program with very low financial demands. The faculty members involved are very excited and committed to seeing this program succeed. The president and the vice president [of the college] are behind it, and if it works like we plan, we can replicate it many times over.”

In order to qualify for the program, incoming students need to take assessment testing in both English and math. Once they have completed both they can contact Ana Torres-Bower at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2778 for registration and enrollment. ♪

## Cerritos College Time Line from 1956-2005





## Cerritos College Keeping Up With Current Job Trends

Projected growth and declines in specific occupations have played a major role in determining curricular offerings at Cerritos College.

While many of the projected-growth occupations in Los Angeles County are in the service sector and do not require a two or four-year degree, some professions on the rise include teacher aides/paraprofessionals and registered nurses, which require an associates degree available at Cerritos College.

Cerritos College also has offerings in teacher education, computer systems, finance and law, which are specific occupations that have

tremendous projected growth in L.A. County in the next few years. These Cerritos College offerings serve as gateways to a baccalaureate degree required by these specific occupations.

Many campus departments with majors that are in demand also happen to be among Cerritos College's flagship programs. For instance, the Business Administration, Accounting, Court Reporting, Paralegal, Computerized Office Technologies, Real Estate, Communications and Finance programs have all seen a greater job market demand of their graduates.

Expanding departments include Wood Manufacturing, Technology,

Architecture, Cosmetology and Auto Body. Other programs include Child Development, Nursing, Culinary Arts, Health Occupations, Pharmacy Technology, Dental Hygiene, Dental Assisting, Medical Assisting, Physical Therapy Assisting and Sign Language Pathology.

Many alumni from these fields and professions have found that their success began at Cerritos College. As career trends in the job market evolve, Cerritos College will continue to provide programs that will help students to achieve their goals and dreams. ♪

## Cerritos College Aims At Reaching Non-Traditional Students

Cerritos College is currently educating nearly 24,000 students, all of whom are individuals with unique learning needs. One area in which Cerritos College is rapidly growing is in serving "non-traditional" students.

Through the Adult Education and Diversity Programs, a partnership was formed with the Artesia-based Founders House of Hope — a 94-bed residential care center for individuals with a history of mental illness.

Dr. Elijah Levy from the Emeritus College in Adult Education and Diversity Programs has been teaching residents at Founders twice a week, helping them to find identity and expression through writing poetry, drawing, painting and other creative mediums.

Levy enables his students to "enlarge their identity" beyond the stereotypical, one-dimensional

mentally-ill individual to that of a multi-dimensional person with aspirations, talents and assets. Levy believes that by encouraging them to step out of a stereotype, his students will lead a more meaningful, fulfilling and purposeful life.

"Most [of the residents] are caught up in the system," said Sally Greer, assistant for the Cerritos College Emeritus programs. "They don't have enough money to live on their own, although many are functional enough to do so."



The courses taught by Levy aim to help Founders residents achieve a higher quality of life, self-empowerment and self-direction. Several residents had flourishing careers before they became mentally ill, and they still possess the talents that contributed to their success many years ago. One resident performed on Broadway and in the theatre circuit, while others hold advanced degrees.

In October 2003, representatives from the Emeritus College and student members of the Cerritos College Psychology Club formed a partnership with Founders House of Hope to raise funds for the program. The effort has contributed in part to enlightening Cerritos College students to concept of 'non-traditional' students and to the needs of the surrounding community.

For more information about the Adult Education and Diversity Program and its partnership with the Founders House of Hope, please contact Sally Greer at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2493. ♪

## Cerritos College Recognized For Outstanding Automotive Program

With the rising demand for automotive technicians, Cerritos College is excelling at producing industry-ready professionals from a top-of-the-line program.

Cerritos College's College Automotive Program (CAP), sponsored by DaimlerChrysler, was selected as the top program nationwide from among 35 colleges. Cerritos received the award at the National CAP Conference in Auburn Hills, Michigan. The DaimlerChrysler Fund also awarded the Cerritos College Foundation a \$12,000 grant to assist the college's CAP automotive program.

"This is exciting," said John Moore, a member of the college's Board of Trustees. "To be number one in the nation is tremendous."

CAP is a two-year paid automotive training program designed to prepare incoming dealership technicians. The curriculum is structured by DaimlerChrysler and Cerritos College and leads to an Associate's degree. The program involves attending classroom lectures and laboratory on late model Jeep, Dodge and Chrysler vehicles. Students then go to work at a DaimlerChrysler dealership. The total program lasts about two years with approximately half of the time spent at Cerritos College and the other half working at a sponsoring dealership.

Automotive instructors Kevin Taylor and Richard Aragon partner in the support and instruction of future dealership technicians. Students completing the program are assured full-time employment at participating dealerships.

"Cerritos College is recognized nationally not only for its DaimlerChrysler program, but also for its General Motors and Ford training programs," explained Aragon.

The Cerritos College Automotive Technology department is also a Center for Advanced Transportation Technology (CATT). The CATT is one of 10 colleges statewide selected and funded to develop advanced transportation technology training. The CATT at Cerritos College specializes in alternative fuels training and is developing classes in Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).

In addition to their program success, the Cerritos College Automotive program has also been asked to participate in the California International Auto Show for the past two years. In a

booth sponsored by the Orange County Automobile Dealers Association and Southland Motor Car Dealers Association, the college hosted representatives who promoted the automotive industry as a whole, as well as the college's successful programs.

"We train and develop future technicians for the American Big Three," said Frank Vega, the outreach manager for Auto Technology at Cerritos College. "That accounts for one car in almost every driveway."

He continued, "We are the most comprehensive program in the state, if not the nation." ♪

*For nearly 50 years, Cerritos College has developed the surrounding community by preparing students to enter and excel in the local workforce.*

*Many Cerritos College alumni graduated with flying colors and proceeded to make great accomplishments. From a city*

*manager, to a registered nurse, a dentist and a company president, successes stories are as varied as each student's individuality. Regardless of*

*their differences, one thing is the same: the birthing ground for their success was Cerritos College. Here are three stories of alumni who are grateful for*

*their time at Cerritos College.*

Success starts with Cerritos College

**Ernie Garcia**, Cerritos College class of 1966, has been Norwalk City Manager for over a decade. Looking back on his time at Cerritos, Garcia says, "Cerritos College gave me the foundation for where I wanted to go. Coming out of high school, I didn't know what I really wanted to do, and Cerritos College helped give me direction." He commended the college for its excellence in partnering with the community and in aiding others who may feel unprepared to enter the workforce. "The impact [of Cerritos College] is immense...they are providing the opportunity for people to partake in a college education and are partnering with the community to do wonderful things."

**Laura Holmes**, MSN, FNP, a registered nurse practitioner and care manager for Kaiser Permanente, is also a Cerritos College alum. Holmes graduated in 1994 having been a re-entry student returning to her studies after long absences from study at the ages of 28 and 37. She praised Cerritos College and the resources made available to her. "Cerritos College was paramount in getting me when I am today," she said. "I had a wonderful experience there. The professors are inspiring, friendly and encouraging." She also said it was a friendly environment to people who may not be typical, right-out-of-high-school students. "They are very friendly to the adult learner," she said. "They [at Cerritos College] don't intimidate; they inspire."

**Gerald P. Roodzant**, DDS, owner of a family and cosmetic dentistry practice in La Mirada, graduated from Cerritos College in 1975. Roodzant credits Cerritos College for laying the ground-work of his success. "Cerritos College is a great way to start your career path," he commented. "Counseling at [the college] was invaluable to me...it directed me in how to get where I wanted to go." He also feels that Cerritos College is an incredible value offering a high quality of education as well as ease of access. He added, "community colleges are absolutely the beginning point for anybody who wants to go to college."

**Alan Spitalnick**, president of Bolsa Financial, Inc., also fondly remembers his days at Cerritos College. "Cerritos College is an icon in the community," he said. "It stood out when I went there, and it stands out now. Cerritos College has always been there, and it will be there until the end of time." Spitalnick said his time at Cerritos proved to be fruitful as he went on to continue his education and eventually start his own business. "Success starts with knowledge," he said, "and knowledge is at Cerritos College." Spitalnick graduated in the class of 1963.

Garcia, Holmes, Roodzant and Spitalnick are just four alumni who have forged ahead in the world with the aid of Cerritos College. They all agree that preparation is a key to success and that Cerritos College is excellent at preparing its students for the real world and for real life.

You too can find yourself among the alumni who attribute the start of their success to their time at Cerritos College. ♪



*Ernie Garcia,  
Class of 1966*



*Laura Holmes,  
Class of 1994*



*Gerald Roodzant,  
Class of 1975*



*Alan Spitalnick,  
Class of 1963*