Greetings! Beginning week six, I would like to give a campus update and say thank you for your dedication to this College.

I have discovered that there are tremendous programs and services for our students. I have enjoyed touring the campus, meeting the staff, attending division meetings and the overall interaction with the college community. If I haven’t made it to your area I will. It’s a large campus.

I will focus on a few areas in this communication.

**Budget:** The word we hear from the State Chancellor’s Office is that the primary focus is on developing the 2010-11 budget proposals and, of course, lobbying efforts. The key word is *restoration* – restoration of COLA, enrollment growth and restoration to categorical programs. However, with tax revenue and property taxes still behind projections, it may be another year of budget cuts. We did receive clarification on the amount of ARRA (recovery funds from the federal government) funds we will receive. The funds will be distributed to the categorical programs which were severely cut. At Cerritos College, 2009-10 categorical funding was decreased $3,263,778 (41%) from the 2008-09 year. The recovery funds received were only $387,494. Also note that ARRA funds are a one-time resource.

Although reports are coming from the national scene that the recession is nearly over, California will be one of the last states to recover due to the high unemployment rate and loss of businesses and homes during the past 18 months. Although many courses and services have been lost in the past few months, Cerritos College is still solvent and has aggressively pursued strategies to maintain the integrity of the schedule to ensure that vital programs and services will be provided. On behalf of the administration I would like to thank the faculty and staff for your heroic efforts in serving as many students as possible.

**Enrollment:** The student headcount is slightly above 23,000. As a reminder, the State reduced the funded amount of FTES from 17,323 to 16,700 which equated to a $2.8 million loss. To date, the District has accumulated 10,151 FTES which leaves us with a remainder of 6,549 for the spring semester. We can only hope the State will not have mid-year reductions and reduce this amount further.

**HSBC:** A new branch of HSBC, an international banking institution, opened in Artesia. They contributed $5,000 to the ESL program on September 28, 2009. We are continually seeking private funding and grant dollars from all sources. The College received a Title 5 grant for the iFALCON project in the amount of $514,183 for five years. Several other grants and earmarks
have also been received. Please contact the Cerritos Foundation or our Grants office if you know of any funding opportunities.

**Homecoming:** As a reminder, Homecoming is on Saturday, October 24. The ASCC has many great activities planned and the football team’s record is 6-0. All of our fall sports are off to a great start. Let's wish them well.

**Pharmacy Technology:** Congratulations to the Pharmacy Technology Program for its extended accreditation through 2011.

**GO Bond Projects:** The Aquatic Center will be dedicated on October 21 at 5:00 p.m. following the women’s and men’s water polo games. The Southland/Cerritos Center for Transportation Technology (SCCTT) as well as the Classroom/Lab/Office Building are well underway. Efforts are continuing on remodel and infrastructure projects. The parking lots look great as work continues. The next projects to begin will be the Auto Technology modernization and the Facilities and Purchasing Complex.

**Student Success Plan:** The Student Success Plan is moving through the approval process and implementation is expected in the spring. The plan focuses on identifying success measurements and designing programs and services to improve student success. This plan will be shared at an All Campus Meeting on October 29 at 11:00 a.m. in the Teleconference Center.

**Accreditation Committee:** The Accreditation Committee has been restructured to begin the preparation of the March 2010 Follow-Up Report and Site Visit. The committee will consist of the Accreditation Liaison Officer, Faculty Co-Chairperson, Director of Research and Planning, Faculty Senate President or designee, ACCME President or designee, CSEA President or designee and ASCC President or designee.

I will continue to provide updates regularly. Thanks again for the warm welcome and making the transition to Cerritos an enjoyable experience.

Sincerely,
Dr. Linda L. Lacy
President/Superintendent