Dear Campus Colleagues,

Here are some updates on recent events:

1. **Accreditation Visit:**

   I want to express my sincere appreciation for those who met with the visiting accreditation team members on Wednesday, April 29. In addition, I want to publicly thank the President’s Office staff—Andrea Jones, Julie Mun, and Cheryl Thury—who not only coordinated the visit but also assisted immeasurably in the preparation for the visit. I would be equally remiss if I did not thank the Culinary Arts program and Amber Major for the delicious food served to the team and if I did not thank the Facilities Staff, who made the campus look especially attractive. All of you working together contributed to the success of the visit.

   Now we must wait until the Accrediting Commission meets on June 9-11, 2009, and decides if we should be removed from warning. We should receive official notification of our status and of the Commission’s actions by the end of June.

2. **Enrollment Update**

   With 25 days left before Summer 2009 begins, we have registered 1673 Full-Time Equivalent Students (FTES). By comparison, last year, we enrolled 2308.17 FTES in both summer sessions. We are well on our way to exceeding last year’s enrollment totals, even with reductions in class sections.

3. **The H1N1 Virus and Cerritos College**

   Several people have asked what Cerritos College is doing to prepare for a possible outbreak of the H1N1 virus, so let me tell you what we have done and are doing. On Monday, Coordinator of Student Health Services Nancy Montgomery sent a message to all Cerritos College staff describing the virus and what precautions people should take to minimize the chances they will contract the disease. On Wednesday, a similar, updated e-mail message was sent to all students for whom we have e-mail addresses. You can also see that message posted around campus. We continue to monitor state and county health reports on the spread of the disease. As I write this at 3:45 p.m. on Thursday afternoon, there are NO reported cases of the virus in Los Angeles County. Moreover, the Thursday edition of the Los Angeles Times contained a front page article describing this strain of the flu virus as “relatively mild.” Here are the first two paragraphs of that article:

   As the World Health Organization raised its infectious disease alert level Wednesday and health officials confirmed the first death linked to swine flu inside U.S. borders, scientists studying the virus are coming to
the consensus that this hybrid strain of influenza -- at least in its current form -- isn't shaping up to be as fatal as the strains that caused some previous pandemics.

In fact, the current outbreak of the H1N1 virus, which emerged in San Diego and southern Mexico late last month, may not even do as much damage as the run-of-the-mill flu outbreaks that occur each winter without much fanfare.

Cerritos College sometimes receives reports of contagious diseases, including the flu. Based on the circumstances and in an abundance of caution, we have facilities staff wipe down the room’s surfaces or advise staff in the area to take other appropriate measures. Our student health department and our facilities staff are quite pro-active in addressing infectious disease situations.

If you have further concerns, I urge you to contact Nancy Montgomery, as she invited staff to do in her e-mail. We will continue to monitor the situation and inform you if conditions change significantly. In the meantime, I urge you to stay calm and informed and not to panic or get caught up in unconfirmed rumors.

Sincerely,
Bill Farmer, Acting President
Cerritos College