Dear Campus Colleagues,

**Accreditation**
In this year of dismal budget news, I have some great news about accreditation. Yesterday afternoon, Dr. Barbara Beno, President of the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges, called me to say that the Commission has voted to remove Cerritos College from warning status. We received the confirming letter today.

I want to thank all of you who worked so hard this year on the four recommendations the Commission gave us:

1. The managers and staff in Student Services, Business Services, Human Resources, Public and Governmental Affairs, and the Foundation, who successfully completed program reviews for their departments/divisions.
2. The Planning and Budget Committee, the Information Technology staff, the Research and Planning staff, and all others who successfully contributed to the improvement and completion of our planning processes.
3. All those on the campus who responded so positively to my presidential messages, who asked questions when I attended their department meetings, and who embraced the charge to participate in dialogue about student learning and improve campus communication.
4. Consultant Matthew Lee, who guided and oversaw many of our efforts and drafted the final report.
5. My office staff—Cheryl Thury, Julie Mun, and Andrea Jones—who put together the evidence and made arrangements for the visiting team, and also Samuel Chavez for loading the evidence onto the website.
6. All those who took time to be interviewed by the team about the college’s progress in addressing the recommendations.
7. The Board of Trustees for its ongoing interest and support.

I know some of these activities were difficult and time-consuming, but your work paid off, and I hope you are as delighted as I am about the result.

I think we should celebrate this success, so please join me for ice cream next Tuesday afternoon (July 7) from 2-4 p.m. in the administrative quad to celebrate all the good work we did.

And after we’ve celebrated, let us collectively pledge that we will never let things drift into such neglectful shape again. The Coordinating Committee will be reconsidering the composition of the Accreditation Committee this fall so that we can continually monitor our compliance with accreditation standards, not just the year or two before the visiting team arrives.
New Interim Director of Human Resources
Vic Collins began work yesterday as Interim Director of Human Resources, replacing Dan O’Rourke, who is retiring. He comes to Cerritos College with years of experience in Human Resources. For many years, he was Director of Human Resources at Long Beach City College, from which he retired. Since his retirement, he has served as Interim Director of Human Resources at Ohlone College and Pasadena City College and as Interim Vice Chancellor of Human Resources for the Kern Community College District. Please join me in welcoming him to Cerritos College.

Budget Update
As you have probably read, the state failed to pass a budget by its July 1 deadline and things remain deadlocked in Sacramento as I write. Our situation remains the same until we know what the final cuts are to Cerritos College. And that depends on the state passing a budget.

The Planning and Budget Committee has identified close to $10 million in cuts that the College can enact for 2009-10. To review, they are:

- Reducing class sections by 10-15% $2.5-$4 million savings
- Freeze all full- and part-time positions $3 million in savings
- Reduce the equivalent of class sections in Summer 2010 $2.8 million in savings
- Reduce travel by 75% $195,000 in savings
- Reduce memberships by 50% $63,000 in savings

There have been some questions about what the reductions in Summer 2010 classes will mean. Though we will have a few classes in the first six weeks of Summer 2010 (dental assisting, auto technology, and cosmetology, to name a few), almost all other classes will not start until the second six weeks of the summer term. Their number will be equivalent to the number of classes we typically offer in the second six weeks of summer. Therefore, we will be reducing the number of sections offered in Summer 2010 by the number we typically offer in the first six weeks of summer.

These next two years will be rough ones for the college, but we will get through them if we hold together and develop solutions together.

In the meantime, let’s enjoy the good news about accreditation and feel good about what we did this year.

Sincerely,
Bill Farmer, Acting President
Cerritos College