President/Superintendent

The Cerritos College mission is to serve the community by building futures through learning.

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

Janet Sanderson — Selected as the 2007 State Community College Organization of Physical Educators (SCOPE) Dance Educator of the Year. Sanderson has served as a faculty member and department chair at Cerritos College for more than 25 years.

Chef Michael Pierini — Received the 2006 Excellence in Teaching Award from the California Community College Association for Occupational Education (CCCAOE). As department chair and an instructor in Cerritos College’s culinary arts program, Pierini teaches students both the theory and practical application of the skills needed in the food industry.

Benny Artiaga — Cerritos College men’s soccer coach, named Junior College Division III National Men’s Soccer Coach of the Year, 2006, National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Sue Parsons — Outstanding Community College Faculty Member of the Year Award, 1999, Association of Community College Trustees; Distinguished Alumni Award, 2005, California State University, Long Beach.

Bonnie Helberg — Teacher of the Year Award, 2004, California Association for Postsecondary Education and Disability (CAPED).

Mariejana Piorkowski — Teacher of the Year Award, 2003, California Association for Postsecondary Education and Disability (CAPED).

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Scholars’ Honors Program (SHP) — SHP is the campus’ academic and social home for talented and motivated students who plan to transfer to four-year institutions. Benefits offered to SHP students include opportunities for scholarships, small-enrollment honors courses and workshops to help in transferring. In 2007, SHP graduates achieved a 95 percent acceptance rate to UCLA and a 94 percent acceptance rate at the University of California, Irvine. Each year, SHP students transfer to institutions including UCLA, USC, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, CSU Long Beach, UC Irvine and UC Santa Barbara.

Southland/Cerritos Center for Transportation Technologies — In 2007, the college launched a $4.8 million capital campaign to build the Southland/Cerritos Center for Transportation Technologies, a world-class automotive training center that will provide a unique career ladder for automotive students and dealer employees from across the Southern California region. In 2005, the center received an unprecedented donation of vehicles worth more than $300,000 from Ford Motor Company. The Ford Automotive Student Service Education Training (ASSET) program at Cerritos College is one of the most successful ASSET programs in the nation, generating a 100-percent employment placement rate. In addition, as one of California’s ten advanced transportation centers, the college is focused on establishing a new alternative fuels demonstration lab in response to the increased number of alternative vehicle fuel sales in the state, as well as meeting the need for specialized technicians.

Teacher TRAC — In partnership with California State University, Long Beach, Teacher TRAC gives future K-8 teachers an opportunity to complete their bachelor’s degree and multiple-subjects credential in four calendar years. To date, nearly 300 students have graduated from the program. A special feature of Teacher TRAC is a focus on educational technology that helps to enhance a K-8 teacher’s ability and technology proficiency in the classroom. In 2005, Teacher TRAC was awarded a $282,360 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), which goes toward developing a secondary school mathematics and science teacher preparation program called Teaching Secondary School Scholar Partnership (TS3P).

In 2007, Teacher TRAC received the Phi Theta Kappa Teacher Preparation Program Award, recognizing the college’s exemplary efforts to prepare students for careers in education. Later in 2007, the program received a $254,571 grant from the California Chancellor’s Office to develop and implement a career technical education (CTE) teacher pathways program. The proposed project will address the need for career technical teacher/educators at the secondary and community college level.

STUDENT ETHNICITY (FALL 2006)

In addition, the college is home to more than 300 international students representing 35 countries.

**DR. NOELIA VELA**
President/Superintendent

**Facts at a Glance**