FOR THE WEEKS OF JUNE 27—JULY 11, 2007

In Progress
Kristen Habbestad is meeting this week with a representative from CBS Outdoor to arrange outdoor and bus advertising for the 07-08 year.

Ms. Habbestad also coordinated staff entries to the National Committee for Marketing and Public Relations’ (NCMPR) annual Medallion Awards. The submissions were sent this week.

Coverage
Long Beach Press-Telegram—June 1, 2007—Short profiles on graduating class presidents of local high schools, one of which plans to attend Cerritos College.

La Opinion—June 5, 2007—Article about free classes at Cerritos College that teach English to Spanish-speaking healthcare professionals, so they may practice in this country.

Downey Patriot—June 1, 2007—Short article on appointment of new member to Cerritos College Foundation Board of Directors (from press release).

Downey Patriot—June 1, 2007—Short article on students receiving scholarships from Cerritos College Foundation (from press release).

Whittier Daily News—June 3, 2007—Short article on new court reporting classes offered at Cerritos College (from press release).


Downey Patriot—June 8, 2007—Brief on online court reporting classes being offered at Cerritos College in the fall

Whittier Daily News—June 12, 2007—Article on the awarding of scholarships to high school students studying automotive technology at Cerritos College (from press release).

Long Beach Press-Telegram—June 14, 2007—Obituary of a Jim Killingsworth, a former Cerritos College basketball coach who led the team to its first state title.

Wave Community News—June 14, 2007—Article on Teacher TRAC graduates

Wave Community News—June 14, 2007—Brief on “Play’s Anatomy” performances

Whittier Daily News — June 17, 2007 — Brief on upcoming “Concert on the Grass” to be offered at Cerritos College (from press release).

Community College Week — June 18, 2007 — CC Week’s annual compilation of the top associate degree-granting institutions includes Cerritos College on lists for both Hispanic students and Asian students receiving degrees.

Norwalk Community News — July 6, 2007 — Front-page article on award given to Tom Jackson by Cerritos College Adult Education and Diversity Programs (from press release).

Norwalk Community News — July 6, 2007 — Article on presentation to Bellflower YMCA service club by Robert Riffle covering campus improvements (from press release).


Norwalk Community News — July 6, 2007 — Article on new member appointed to Cerritos College Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee (from press release).

Norwalk Community News — July 6, 2007 — Brief on Cerritos College being closed on Fridays during the summer (from press release).

Norwalk Community News — July 6, 2007 — Article on international student who recently graduated from Cerritos College’s CAP program (from press release).

Norwalk Community News — July 6, 2007 — Article about award received by Cerritos College’s CAP program from DaimlerChrysler (from press release).

Related News

Los Angeles Times — July 9, 2007 — Article discussing video games that focus on hot political issues, such as illegal immigration, in which a Cerritos College student is quoted.
Board President Tom Jackson Honored by Cerritos College Adult Education and Diversity Programs

Award Applauds Jackson for Service, Leadership

For Immediate Release: July 3, 2007
Media Contact: Kristen Habbestad, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2287

NORWALK, CA -- July 3, 2007 -- Cerritos College's Adult Education and Diversity Programs honored Board President Tom Jackson on Thursday, June 7 during its annual awards ceremony.

Director of Adult Education and Diversity Programs Maggie Cordero presented Jackson with an award for his involvement and leadership at Cerritos College and for his championship of the adult education programs that include ESL, Citizenship, Vocational ESL and Plaza Comunitaria.

"We appreciate your service and leadership," said Cordero in presenting Jackson with the award.

"Thank you for making a difference at our institution."

Jackson, a resident of Norwalk, was elected to the Cerritos College Board of Trustees in 2003 and currently serves as the board’s president. Jackson is a retired Cerritos College faculty member. He first joined the college as a part-time accounting and finance instructor in 1976, and then served as a full-time faculty member in the college’s Business Education Division beginning in 1980 until his retirement in 2002.

Jackson earned an associate’s degree in business and engineering from Long Beach City College before earning a bachelor’s degree in business administration from California State University, Long Beach. He went on to earn a second bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Southern California. In April 2007, Jackson completed a master’s degree in governance, a two-year program offered by the California School Board Association for board members and education superintendents.

Cerritos College's Adult Education and Diversity Programs Department offers educational courses that impart knowledge, develop skills and clarify values to students. The program provides students with unique learning opportunities that blend education with workplace skills and leisure. The programs
assist adults in gaining the necessary basic skills and English language acquisition to move into mainstream college programs and/or advance in the workforce.

For more information about the Adult Education and Diversity Programs, please visit www.cerritos.edu/aed.

Cerritos College serves as a comprehensive community college for southeastern Los Angeles County. Communities within the college’s district include Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs and South Gate. Cerritos College offers degrees and certificates in more than 180 areas of study in nine divisions. Annually, more than 1,200 students successfully complete their course of studies, and enrollment currently surpasses 20,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at www.cerritos.edu.

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International Student Pursues Cerritos College's Automotive Technology Program

Gerardo Oka, Originally of Lima, Peru, Travels to U.S. for Specialized Training

For Immediate Release: July 3, 2007

NORWALK, CA -- July 3, 2007 -- Ever since he can remember, Gerardo Oka has spent most of his time immersed in Jeep bodies and transmissions.

Oka grew up observing and helping his father, who owns a repair shop in Oka’s native Lima, Peru. In fact, before coming to California, Oka spent 10 years working as a mechanic alongside his father. As he grew older, however, Oka felt it was time to pursue even further experience—and most importantly, certification—in his automotive specialty. Only a few select programs in the U.S. offer Chrysler’s College Automotive Program (CAP), which provides technicians with specific corporate training on Chrysler and Jeep vehicles, and Cerritos College is one such institution.

After spending the past two years at Cerritos College, Oka graduated in summer 2007 from Cerritos College’s CAP Program with certification in servicing Dodge, Chrysler and Jeep vehicles. He says he found early on that Cerritos College’s Automotive Technology Program was the best program on the West Coast.

"The best class was the one that focused on drivability and fuel systems," said Oka.

Oka, 29, came to the U.S. on a student visa and began working part time at Long Beach Chrysler Jeep with Tom Bonnstetter, who urged Oka to pursue a certification program at Cerritos College. Oka enrolled at Cerritos College as an international student. CAP allows students to take advantage of a work-study program, and that’s just what Oka did. He continued working part time at Long Beach Chrysler Jeep while attending the program, which provided him with even further specialized training in servicing Dodge, Chrysler and Jeep products.

Oka has enjoyed his instructors while at Cerritos College. Richard Aragon, CAP coordinator, and Kevin Taylor, have both served as his instructors during his two years at the campus.

"When he told me his background, I was impressed," said Aragon.

"I’ve never had an international student in my program before, and I know Gerardo met some roadblocks in wanting to study here. But he kept at it and never quit. I’ve never had an applicant to our program show so much enthusiasm."
Now that he’s finished the Chrysler corporate program, Oka plans to become a full-time technician at Long Beach Chrysler Jeep.

And, he might add, a wealthy one, since senior automotive technicians can eventually earn more than $100,000.

Oka says he’s drawn to Jeeps because they’re "in a category of their own."

"They’re the original SUV, and the first vehicle to have a 4x4," he said.

Not long after Oka enrolled in the Cerritos College CAP program, he visited Huntington Beach Chrysler Jeep. He walked right in and asked to speak with the service manager.

"After they talked to me for a while and learned about my experience with Jeeps, they wanted to hire me," said Oka.

"But they wanted me full time, and I would have had to quit the CAP program. I didn’t want to do that--I wanted to finish my education."

Aragon added that he thought this was a wise choice on Oka’s part.

"It’s nice that he was offered a job--it happens often with gifted students," Aragon explained.

"But he hung in there with his education, and now. No one can take that away from him."

In spring 2007, Oka finished the semester at the top of his class. He was honored by Cerritos College’s Automotive Technology Program as the "Most Outstanding Student" for his overall academic achievement. He earned the highest grade point average of 3.93.

Oka says he’s been pleased with his experience as a student in the college’s auto program.

"Cerritos College has really good teachers, especially in auto tech," he said.

Most of all, Oka is proud to have finished the program, and he looks forward to becoming a master technician--completely, and most importantly, certifiably, versed in the nuances of Dodge, Chrysler and Jeep vehicles.

Cerritos College has offered an automotive training technology program since the college began in 1955. The offerings consist of certificates, degrees and special programs in the disciplines of automotive repair, advanced transportation technology, auto collision repair, intelligent transportation systems and alternative fuel and hybrids, making it one of the most comprehensive programs in the U.S. Students can also earn a bachelor’s degree in automotive management at Cerritos College through an agreement the college has with Northwood University. Cerritos College is currently working toward a new facility, the Southland/Cerritos Center for Transportation Technology (SCCTT), a world-class automotive training center on the college’s campus that will help provide a unique career ladder for automotive students and dealer employees from across the Southern California region. For more information about the Cerritos College Automotive Technology Program, visit www.cerritos.edu/advtranstechctr.
College: Cerritos College
Major: Transferring to a University after completion of general education, FIDM, International Business, Marketing Advertisement
Favorite high school subjects/activities: ASB (Associated Student Body), drama, economics, English, tennis

What do you expect to be doing 10 years from now? In 10 years from now I hope to be an established businesswoman and experienced world traveler and hopefully be in a position where I can comfortably raise a family.

Advice to students still in school: Listen to your elders; when they tell you these four years are going to be the time of your life, they're telling you the truth. Take a deep breath and enjoy it.
Inglés para el área médica

Se ofrecen clases gratuitas para profesionales latinos que aún no pueden dominarlo

EN DETALLE

**Qué:** clase de inglés vocacional como segundo idioma en el área de la salud.

**Dónde:** Cerritos College,
1.1110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650.

**Cuándo:** sábados de 8:00 a.m. a 12:00 p.m., desde el 18 de agosto hasta el 9 de diciembre de 2007.

**Costo:** gratis

**Inscripciones e información:**
(562) 467-5098.

LA CLASE

Daryabith Martinez, asistente de los programas bilíngües del departamento mencionado anteriormente, informa que la clase es gratuita y no otorga créditos.

La instrucción se ofrece durante el otoño, del 18 de agosto al 6 de diciembre del presente año, de 8:00 a.m. a 12:00 p.m., los días sábados.

Las matrículas se abren a partir del próximo 25 de junio, día en que (de 8:00 a.m. al mediodía) se ofrecerá una charla informativa sobre las diversas clases (sin crédito) y varios programas educativos (con créditos) que ofrece el CC durante todo el año.

Los interesados pueden llamar desde ahora al (562) 467-5098 para confirmar su asistencia a la charla de orientación.
Gordon elected to foundation board

NORWALK – George Gordon, co-owner of Century 21 Home and Investment in Downey, has been elected to the Cerritos College Foundation Board of Directors. Gordon, a part-time faculty member at the college, will help oversee the foundation’s fundraising and scholarship distribution efforts.

“We’re thrilled to have Gordon join the board,” said the Honorable Peter Espinoza, a Los Angeles Superior Court judge and the foundation board’s president. “George brings to the board his credibility and experience in our community, and that is invaluable to our organization.”

Gordon has been co-owner of Century 21 Home and Investment since 1981. He served as president of the Downey Association of Realtors in 1986 and has served as the district representative for the California Association of Realtors.

He currently teaches a class in real estate principles for the Cerritos College Business Division. He also serves as chairman of the board of deacons for Downey First Baptist Church and is the church moderator.

Downey residents receive scholarships

NORWALK – The Cerritos College Foundation awarded a number of scholarships to its students, including many from Downey, at its bi-monthly meeting on May 10. In all, more than $2,400 was presented to Cerritos College students.

Anna Maria Julianelli received a $300 John Pelloni Scholarship, which was established in memory of cosmetology professor John Pelloni, and is awarded to outstanding students in the Cerritos College Cosmetology Department.

Sang Pok received a $250 Yamaha Music Scholarship, which was established by Yamaha Corporation of America and is awarded to outstanding students in the Cerritos College Music Department.

Vanessa Villalobos and Gail Briney each received a $150 Assistive Technology Scholarship for Students with Disabilities. This scholarship was established by Mary Hunt, a specialist in the Disabled Students Programs and Services Program at Cerritos College.

“We’re tremendously proud to award these scholarship funds to our well-deserving students,” said the Honorable Peter P. Espinoza, chair of the foundation and Superior Court of Los Angeles County judge.
AROUND WHITTIER

1929

Court-reporting courses offered

NORWALK — Cerritos College’s court-reporting program will offer online theory classes for the first time ever this fall at the campus, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

This entry-level set of classes provides an overview of the court reporting stenotype machine and is open to anyone wishing to pursue a career in court reporting or captioning.

Per-unit fees at Cerritos College are $20 for state residents, $160 for out-of-state residents and $186 for international students.

Students will also need to provide their own steno machine (purchased or rented) and buy their own books for the course.

The fall semester begins Aug. 13.

For more information about the new online theory course, visit www.cerritos.edu/courtreporting and click “online classes,” or call (562) 860-2451 Ext. 2746, or e-mail mengland@cerritos.edu.
Downey Realtor named to foundation board

College

NORWALK — Downey Realtor George Gordon has been appointed to the board of directors of the Cerritos College Foundation, according to Kristi Habesfatt, the college’s public information officer. The appointment came during the board’s bimonthly meeting held May 10, she said.

Gordon co-owner of Century 21 Home and Investment in Downey and serves as a part-time faculty member at Cerritos, according to Habesfatt.

“George brings credibility and experience in our community, and that is invaluable to our organization,” Espinosa said.

He joins other community leaders and business leaders on the board in raising funds for scholarship and other efforts. Habesfatt said that, of the 19 foundations serving as a part of the California Association of Realtors, Downey has served as president.

“The Cerritos College Foundation is unique because it has a northern campus at the community college in Downey and a downtown campus in Long Beach,” said Espinosa. 

Prior to being appointed to the foundation board, Gordon has co-owned Century 21 Home since 1993, and prior to that, he worked with the Coldwell Banker Company, she said. Gordon has served as president of the Downey Association of Realtors and has served as representative for the California Association of Realtors.

He currently teaches a class in real estate principles for the California Association of Realtors.
Foundation awards $2,400 to Cerritos College students
Court reporting class now online for fall semester

NORWALK – Cerritos College’s Court Reporting Program will offer online theory classes for the first time with the start of the fall 2007 semester on Aug. 13.

The entry-level set of classes provide an overview of the court reporting stenotype machine and are open to anyone wishing to pursue a career in court reporting or captioning.

Per-unit fees at Cerritos College are $20. For information on the classes, call (562) 860-2451, ext. 2746, or visit the Cerritos College website at www.cerritos.edu.

Financial aid is available to those who qualify and students must purchase a parking pass.
Automotive tech students honored

NORWALK — Eighteen high school students taking classes in Cerritos College’s automotive technology program received $250 scholarships each toward the purchase of MATCO tools from the Southland Motor Car Dealers Association.

Students receiving the awards were: Elizabeth Arias, Lizette Arias, John Barrows, Ben Beivides, Jose Cuenca, Guillermo Diaz, Nate Haugh, Jared Hindman, Alex Lopez, Alex Macias, Desiree Martinez, Andrew Rhee, Danny Rojas, Ashley Royster, Bryan Ruiz, Heather Shaprio, Johnny Santiago, and Armando Solis.

The students now have the opportunity to apply to and join the Import Technician Training Program or the Ford, Chrysler or General Motors corporate programs offered at Cerritos College.

Officials said the student awards are actually worth $500, because MATCO provides Cerritos College students who purchase tools to use in class with a 50 percent discount on purchases.
Killingsworth guided Cerritos to first title

Obituary: He also coached at Idaho State, OSU and TCU.

Staff reports

Former Cerritos College men’s basketball coach Jim Killingsworth, who guided the Falcons to their first state title and later coached Idaho State to one of the biggest upsets in NCAA Tournament history, died Sunday in Oklahoma following a stroke. He was 83.

Killingsworth coached Cerritos from 1964-71 and compiled a 157-49 record, the third most wins in school history. He coached the Falcons to their first state crown in 1968 and won three conference titles.

He left Cerritos in 1971 for Idaho State, where he led the Bengals to two NCAA Tournament appearances in six seasons. In the 1977 Tournament, Idaho State shocked UCLA 76-75, ending the Bruins’ streak of 11 consecutive Final Four appearances.

Killingsworth later coached Oklahoma State for three seasons and led Texas Christian to one NCAA Tournament berth in eight seasons.

Services for Killingsworth will be held Friday in Glen Rose, Texas.
Cerritos graduates 33 from teacher program

NORWALK — Cerritos College’s Teacher Training Academy program honored 33 graduates last month as the students moved closer to gaining a bachelor’s degree and teaching credential from Cal State Long Beach.

The program allows prospective teachers to study their first two years at Cerritos College and transfer to Cal State for two years to complete their four-year bachelor’s degree, said Kristen Habbestad, the college’s public information officer.

Graduates from the program include: Olivia Arias, Cynthia Barahona, Audra Brewster, Patricia Buchanan, Javier Caldera, Diana Carrera, Robert Ceja, Tara Champlin, Wendy Correa, Alpha DeAsis, Claudia Fierro, Sendy Galvan, Nicole Gardner and Janelle Generosa.

Others are: Gabriela Gonzalez, Raul Gonzalez, Angelica Guevara, Laura Hernandez, Lisa Hignite, Gabriela Luna, Francisco Martinez, Erika Morales, Yesenia Nieto, Denise Norris, Christene Raines, Judy Ramirez, Jhonathan Ramos, Gabriela Romero, Adriana Rosas, Vicky Samaniego, Kimberly Sampson, Mark Shimazu and Keith Tolentino.

Buchanan received a $1,000 Fred Gaskin Scholarship that includes a $1,000 match from Cal State Long Beach. Hernandez received the Esther Espinoza Scholarship in the amount of $1,000 with a $1,000 match from the Cerritos College Foundation. Carrera, Morales and Nieto each received an Erudito Scholarship for $500 each; and Mark Shimazu received the D. Franklin Wright Mathematics Scholarship for $2,500.

Students will present series of short plays

NORWALK — The Cerritos College Department of Theater will present “Play’s Anatomy,” a student acting festival composed of several one-act plays written and performed by students Friday through June 24 at the Burnight Studio Theatre, on the college campus at 11110 Alondra Blvd.

Show times are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and June 21, 22 and 23 and 2 p.m. June 24.

General admission is $12. For students, staff and seniors with identification, it is $10.

Information: (562) 860-2451 ext. 2638 or visit www.cerritos.edu/theatre.
Downey residents to lead college students

NORWALK — Downey resident Jason Macias, president-elect of the Associated Students of Cerritos College was sworn in June 6, at the regular board meeting of the Cerritos College Board of Trustees, as the student's official board representative.

Macias is a graduate of Downey High School. A biology major who began attending Cerritos College in 2004, he has worked as a student in the college’s Project HOPE program and is active in the Chicanos/Latinos for Community Medicine and Applied Science, Engineering and Technology clubs.

Macias also served as president of the Computer Club and was the student commissioner of information technology.

During his term, he also seeks to increase law enforcement and start a book rental program, said the college’s public information officer Kristin Habbestad.

“I want to establish better communication and unity between students, faculty, staff and administration,” Macias said.

Michael Barrita, a Downey High School graduate, campaigned with Macias and will serve as the student body vice president, Habbestad said.

Barrita is double-majoring in philosophy and political science. In the past, he served on the executive board of the associated students as the commissioner of external affairs.

He is the current president of the Political Science Club and in the past was treasurer of the Computer Club.

Barrita is an active member of Chicanos/Latinos for Community Medicine and works with the college’s Project HOPE program.
Free park concert slated for July 11

NORWALK — The Cerritos College community band and orchestra will hold a free “Concert On the Grass” at 6:30 p.m. July 11 at the Falcon Square amphitheater, 11110 Alondra Blvd.

Snacks, hot dogs and drinks will be sold, with proceeds supporting the Cerritos College Music Club. Parking is $1 per day.

For more information, call (562) 860-2541 Ext. 2629.
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Source: Community College Week Analysis of U.S. Department of Education Data
Cerritos College Board President Tom Jackson Honored At Awards Ceremony

Award Applauds Jackson for Service, Leadership

Cerritos College’s Adult Education and Diversity Programs honored Board President Tom Jackson on Thursday, June 7 during its annual awards ceremony. Director of Adult Education and Diversity Programs Maggie Cordero presented Jackson with an award for his involvement and leadership at Cerritos College and for his championship of the adult education programs that include ESL, Citizenship, Vocational ESL and Plaza Comunitaria.

“We appreciate your service and leadership,” said Cordero in presenting Jackson with the award. “Thank you for making a difference at our institution.”

Jackson, a resident of Norwalk, was elected to the Cerritos College Board of Trustees in 2003 and currently serves as the board’s president. Jackson is a retired Cerritos College faculty member. He first joined the college as a part-time accounting and finance instructor in 1976, and then served as a full-time faculty member in the college’s Business Education Division beginning in 1980 until his retirement in 2002.

Jackson earned an associate’s degree in business and engineering from Long Beach City College before earning a bachelor’s degree in business administration from California State University, Long Beach. He went on to earn a second bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Southern California. In April 2007, Jackson completed a master’s degree in governance, a two-year program offered by the California School Board Association for board members and education superintendents.

Cerritos College’s Adult Education and Diversity Programs Department offers educational courses that impart knowledge, develop skills and clarify values to students. The program provides students with unique learning opportunities that blend education with workplace skills and leisure. The programs assist adults in gaining the necessary basic skills and English language acquisition to move into mainstream college programs and/or advance in the workforce.
Bellflower YMCA Service Club Members Learn of Campus Improvements

Cerritos College’s Robert Riffle Details Plans in Presentation

Robert Riffle, Cerritos College’s director of physical plant, gave a presentation on June 25 to the Los Cerritos YMCA’s Bellflower Y Service Club about renovations and bond-related construction on campus.

Riffle outlined the process of development, reviewed the timeline for the completion of current construction and showed photos of recently completed projects, including “before and after” pictures of the Health Science Building and the track and football field.

Riffle’s presentation drew much interest from members of the club, particularly since Dr. Ralph Burnight, one of the founders of Cerritos College, was also a founding member of the Bellflower YMCA.

Paula Egan, of the Bellflower Y Service Club presented Riffle with a certificate of appreciation for his time and effort in attending the meeting.

The Bellflower Y Service Club consists of women and men dedicated to serving the community. Chartered in 1959, it acts as a service club for the Los Cerritos YMCA, working with that organization to raise funds and contribute to the betterment of both the youth of the community and the community as a whole.

Riffle’s presentation and appearance was arranged by Cerritos College’s Office of Public Affairs. For more information about the college’s speakers bureau, or to request a speaker, please contact Coordinator of Community Relations Toni Grijalva at grijalva@cerritos.edu or at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2798.
Instructional Dean of Liberal Arts
Linda Rose Receives Doctoral Degree

Liberal Arts Division Instructional Dean Linda Rose successfully defended her doctoral dissertation this spring and received a degree in education (Ed.D.) from the University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Rose’s topic for the dissertation was “Teaching and Learning in Community College: A Close-up View of Student Success in Accelerated Developmental Writing Classes.” The dissertation examined in detail the experiences and learning outcomes for students enrolled in developmental writing classes.

Dr. Rose’s journey through higher education began when she entered the PACE Program at West Los Angeles College in 1987. She went on to earn an associate’s degree from WLAC before enrolling at California State University, Dominguez Hills, where she later earned a bachelor’s degree and a masters degree in English. She did this in six years while working full-time and caring for two young sons.

Dr. Rose was first hired at Cerritos College as a full-time English faculty member in the Liberal Arts Division in August 1994. In 2004, she received a Cerritos College Distinguished Faculty Award. Dr. Rose was hired as the instructional dean of the Liberal Arts Division in 2006.
Downey Adult School Principal Roger Brossmer Appointed to Oversight Committee

During its June 6 meeting, the Cerritos College Board of Trustees appointed Downey Adult School Principal Roger Brossmer to the Cerritos College Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee as an at-large member. Brossmer joins several other committee members who reflect a broad cross-section of the community, including long-time district residents, taxpayers association members, Cerritos College students and retirees, and local civic leaders.

The Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee was established in 2004 and is responsible for overseeing the college’s use of bond funds and for serving as a “check-and-balance” to ensure that the bond proceeds are only used for the projects included in the bond measure project list. Each committee member serves a term of two years.

“Cerritos College is an asset to the community, and I wish to see it continue to thrive,” said Brossmer about his desire to join the committee.

Brossmer brings a wealth of experience to the oversight committee. Annually, he oversees a $7 million annual budget at Downey Adult School, which serves more than 14,000 students each year. Since 2000, Brossmer has actively served on the City of Downey Planning Commission. He also serves as the chairperson for the American Cancer Society’s annual 24-hour relay in Downey and is a youth director for Rotary International.

“We’re so pleased to have Roger join the committee,” said Donna Jones, chairperson for the Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee.

“His familiarity with our community and students, along with his experience in educational administration, are incredibly valuable to the committee in ensuring the success of Cerritos College’s bond management process.”
Campus Closed on Fridays During Summer

In an effort to conserve energy and resources, Cerritos College’s campus will be closed each Friday during the summer through Friday, August 3. Normal weekday hours and Friday operations will resume beginning the week of August 6.

For access anytime to class schedules, applications and other student services, please visit the Cerritos College Admissions and Records Office online at www.cerritos.edu/admissions, or, for more information about service hours and appointments, call (562) 860-2451 ext. 2211.
International Student Pursues College’s Automotive Technology Program

Gerardo Oka, originally of Lima, Peru, travels to U.S. for Specialized Training
Ever since he can remember, Gerardo Oka has spent most of his time immersed in Jeep bodies and transmissions.

Oka grew up observing and helping his father, who owns a repair shop in Oka’s native Lima, Peru. In fact, before coming to California, Oka spent 10 years working as a mechanic alongside his father. As he grew older, however, Oka felt it was time to pursue even further experience—and most importantly, certification—in his automotive specialty. Only a few select programs in the U.S. offer Chrysler’s College Automotive Program (CAPP), which provides technicians with specific career training on Chrysler and Jeep vehicles, and Cerroitos College is one such institution.

After spending the past two years at Cerroitos College, Oka graduated in summer 2007 from Cerroitos College’s CAPP Program with certification in servicing Dodge, Chrysler, and Jeep vehicles. He says he found early on that Cerroitos College’s Automotive Technology Program was the best program on the West Coast.

“The best class was the one that focused on drivability and fuel systems,” said Oka.

Oka, 26, came to the U.S. on a student visa and began working part-time at Long Beach Chrysler Jeep with Tom Bonnister, who urged Oka to pursue a certification program at Cerroitos College. Oka enrolled at Cerroitos College as an international student. CAP allows students to take advantage of a work-study program, and that’s just what Oka did. He continued working part-time at Long Beach Chrysler Jeep while attending the program, which provided him with even further specialized training in servicing Dodge, Chrysler, and Jeep products.

Oka has enjoyed his instructors while at Cerroitos College. Richard Aragon, CAP coordinator, and Kevin Taylor, have both served as his instructors during his two years at the campus.

“When he told me his background, I was impressed,” said Aragon.

“I’ve never had an international student in my program before, and I know Gerardo met some roadblocks in wanting to study here. But he kept it up and never quit. I’ve never had an applicant to our program show so much enthusiasm.”

Now that he’s finished the Chrysler corporate program, Oka plans to become a full-time technician at Long Beach Chrysler Jeep.

And, he might add, a wealthy one, since senior automotive technicians can eventually earn more than $100,000.

Oka says he’s drawn to Jeeps because they’re “in a category of their own.”

“They’re the original SUV, and the first vehicle to have a 4x4,” he said.

Not long after Oka enrolled in the Cerroitos College CAP program, he visited Huntington Beach Chrysler Jeep. He walked right in and asked to speak with the service manager.

“After they talked to me for a while and learned about my experience with Jeeps, they wanted to hire me,” said Oka.

“But they wanted me full-time, and I would have had to quit the CAP program. I didn’t want to do that—I wanted to finish my education.”

Aragon added that he thought this was a wise choice on Oka’s part.

“It’s nice that he was offered a job—it happens often with certified students,” Aragon explained.

“But he hung in there with his education, and now. No one can take that away from him.”

In spring 2007, Oka finished the semester at the top of his class. He was honored by Cerroitos College’s Automotive Technology Program as the “Most Outstanding Student” for his overall academic achievement. He earned the highest grade point average of 3.93.

Oka says he’s been pleased with his experience as a student in the college’s auto program. “Cerroitos College has really good teachers, especially in auto tech,” he said.

Most of all, Oka is proud to have finished the program, and he looks forward to becoming a master technician—completely, and most importantly, certifiably, versed in the nuances of Dodge, Chrysler, and Jeep vehicles.

Cerroitos College has offered an automotive training technology program since the college began in 1955. The offerings consist of certificates, degrees, and special programs in the disciplines of automotive repair, advanced transportation technology, automotive collision repair, intelligent transportation systems and alternative fuel and hybrids, making it one of the most comprehensive programs in the U.S. Students can earn a bachelor’s degree in automotive management at Cerroitos College through an agreement the college has with Northwood University. Cerroitos College is currently working toward a new facility, the Southland-Cerroitos Center for Transportation Technology (SCCTT), a world-class automotive training center on the college’s campus that will help provide a unique career ladder for automotive students and dealer employees from across the Southern California region. For more information about Cerroitos College Automotive Technology Program, visit www.cerroitos.edu/autotech.
Richard Aragon, Ceritos College auto technology instructor and coordinator for the campus’ DaimlerChrysler College Automotive Program (CAP), recently accepted DaimlerChrysler’s “Outstanding Achievement and Superior Outreach” award on behalf of the college. DaimlerChrysler presented the award during a conference June 5-7 at the DaimlerChrysler Academy headquarters near Detroit in Auburn Hills, Michigan.

The award recognizes Ceritos State University, Los Angeles.

“Ceritos College’s automotive program has made enormous strides in recent years in attracting both students and community partners, such as the Southeast BOP and the Southland Motor Car Dealers Association,” said Eli Jarettis, director of the Advanced Transportation Technology and Energy Initiative for the Southland-Cerritos Center for Transportation Technology (SCCCTT) at Ceritos College.

“We are proud to accept this prestigious award, and we look forward to continuing our training efforts with DaimlerChrysler.”

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Students can also earn a bachelor’s degree in automotive management at Ceritos College through an agreement the college has with Northwood University. Ceritos College is currently working toward a new facility, the Southland-Cerritos Center for Transportation Technology (SCCCTT), a world-class automotive training center on the college’s campus that will help provide a unique career ladder for automotive students and dealer employees from across the Southern California region.
Immigration debate finds itself in play

Advocacy groups are using video and board games to advance their agendas and influence public opinion.

By Anna Gorman
Times Staff Writer

July 9, 2007

The video game plays like this: You are a Mexican illegal immigrant, an Indian green-card holder or a student on a visa from Japan.

As you navigate through New York City, you make risky decisions along the way. At a subway turnstile, do you jump or swipe your card? At a corner store, do you pay or shoplift? If you make bad choices and lose points, you can win others by attending immigration rallies or taking English classes.

But watch out: If an immigration agent pops onto the screen, you go straight to a detention center and face possible deportation. You’ve been ICED — a twist on Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the federal agency responsible for enforcing immigration laws.

As the national debate over immigration continues, advocacy groups are trying a new medium — video games — to promote their agenda and influence public opinion.

ICED, for example, was produced by Breakthrough, a New York-based human rights organization, to highlight the arbitrary nature of immigration laws.

"Games are really good at exploring complex issues, and what issue is more complex than immigration?" said Suzanne Seggerman, president of Games for Change, an organization aimed at supporting new uses for digital games. "They are also great at promoting a single point of view.... A game can allow for a new perspective and, in some cases, new conviction."

Ira Mehlman, spokesman for the Washington-based Federation for American Immigration Reform, said he wasn’t surprised that advocates had turned to video games to sway public opinion. But he doesn’t think they will be successful.

"This is not an issue where people are on the fence," he said. "Everybody is familiar enough with the issue that they have staked out a position already."

Immigration isn’t the only serious topic being addressed by groups advancing a particular position. Political candidates have also used games to reach voters. Starbucks recently partnered with an environmental organization to create a game about global warming.
Developers, students and professors have created games about other topics to raise awareness and promote change. Darfur is Dying simulates a Sudanese refugee camp where refugees try to get water without being attacked by militias; Airport Security allows screeners to inspect passengers for prohibited items.

"It has really become a national movement," said David Rejeski at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. "There are really creative people that understand that this is a very important medium that could be used for much more than entertainment."

Though their commercial market is limited — most of these games are available for free online or exhibited at educational conferences around the country — developers say they hope that will change.

The MacArthur Foundation recently awarded a $1.1-million grant toward the development of a school in New York that would use games to teach core subjects. Through so-called serious video games, students can role-play and solve problems, said Connie Yowell, the foundation’s director of education.

"Games can be a prototype for curriculum in the 21st century," she said.

Breakthrough worked with about 100 New York City high school students to create the ICED! I Can End Deportation video game, which was presented at the Games for Change conference last month and will be available for free online this fall. The target market is high school and college students.

"Especially for the age group below 35, online media has become a very central part of their lives," said Mallika Dutt, Breakthrough’s executive director. "If we want to engage with these constituencies, we have to engage in the method and tools that make more sense to them."

The nature of these video games reflects how designers have matured and become more politically aware since the days of Pac-Man and Space Invaders, said Jamil Moledina, executive director of the Game Developers Conference.

"They are in their 30s, they are having kids of their own," Moledina said. "They have an evolving sense of priorities."

Students at the University of Denver plan to release a video game called Squeezed, created with a grant from mtvU and Cisco Systems and designed to raise empathy for migrant laborers. The player takes the form of a tree-hopping, bandana-wearing frog who leaves home to seek work abroad as a fruit picker.

The fruit is squeezed into juice for the virtual economy, and the frog can either spend his juice earnings on himself or send them to family members back home. If relatives don’t receive enough juice, they send bad news, the frog’s "despair" meter rises and he picks less fruit.

Porter Schutz, 22, said the team members held very different views about immigration reform but all agreed that farmworkers were vital to the U.S. economy. He said they wanted to create a game that was edgy and could change people’s perceptions but wasn’t too heavy-handed or one-sided.

"It’s difficult to sort of rock the boat without vilifying anybody," said Schutz, a computer science student.
Los Angeles Times, con’t
July 9, 2007

Rafael Fajardo, one of the University of Denver professors who headed the project, also created a pair of video games on the issue: La Migra and Crosser, both part of an exhibit that opened in Merida, Mexico, last month. In La Migra, the player is an immigration agent who decides whether to stop people from crossing the border. He becomes Agent of the Month if he stops enough migrants from crossing — and gets a pink slip if he lets too many pass.

In Crosser, modeled after the classic game Frogger, the player tries to cross a river along the border before encountering immigration agents and getting sent back to Mexico. He encounters various items on the river, including a cat, a dog, a tire and a cadaver.

"The underdog is made into a hero through the game," Fajardo said. "That will put some audiences in an uncomfortable position."

Clark Davis, an English professor at the university, has played Crosser with his 10-year-old son, an avid video game player. "Having a son who had grown up in this video game culture, I hadn't seen anything that was substantive," Davis said. "I didn't know this whole genre existed."

There are also board games about the U.S.-Mexico border, including two by Texas Tech University assistant professor Francisco Ortega. In Crossing the Bridge, which uses a board that looks like a highway, players try to smuggle people and drugs into the U.S., which they exchange for money and can use to buy weapons or gasoline to smuggle back into Mexico. They risk getting caught by customs and having their cars, merchandise or passports taken away.

The games are another way to generate conversation and debate among family and friends, Ortega said. "If you want games for children, just go to Toys R Us," he said. "If you want something more in-depth, you can find other options."

Though the goal is to educate a wider audience, the games will probably reach only young people, said Harry Pachon, president of USC's Tomas Rivera Policy Institute. But, he added, players may include Caucasian students who might not have given immigration a second thought. "What this does is open up the world of the undocumented," Pachon said.

Eric Ceja, a Cerritos College student and distributor of a bilingual board game also called La Migra, said he believes immigrants and their children will be good customers. Ceja said he sold several copies of his game at Los Angeles' Olvera Street during a Cinco de Mayo event.

A La Migra player tries to cross into the fictional town of Santa Banana, washing dishes or cars to fund the journey. The player spends money to call home and stay at El Cheapo motel, while trying to avoid trips to Garbajo City Jail and Coyote Town.

Some games are overtly anti-immigrant, including one called Border Patrol, in which the player tries to hit a drug smuggler, a Mexican nationalist or a "breeder." The objective, according to the online game, is to "keep them out … at any cost."
Immigrant rights advocates say those games are unnecessarily violent and objectionable.

"I think they trivialize the issue," said Jorge Mario Cabrera, spokesman for the Central American Resource Center in Los Angeles.

Chris Byrne, contributing editor at Toy Wishes magazine, said games about immigration may be attractive for one-time use, but will have long-term appeal only if they are easy to learn and, most important, fun.

"For family game night," Byrne said, "people are going to reach for Cranium before they reach for these games."