FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

In Progress

Aya Abelon is working on developing a series of student feature stories

Aya Abelon is also working with the Business Department on developing a story announcing the new retail management certificate FastTrack program and its partnership with Ralphs.

Coverage

Bellflower Bulletin—May, 2009—Article on the film student won the Media Merit Award (from press release)

Bellflower Bulletin—May, 2009—Article on the Dental Hygiene students’ 100% board exam passing rate (from press release)

The Downey Patriot—May 1, 2009—Informational brief on the Cosmetology Fashion Show (from press release)

Los Cerritos Community News, Norwalk Community News—May 1, 2009—Article on a Northwood University at Cerritos student (from press release)

Orange County Register—May 3, 2009—Article on an environmental event mentions a Cerritos College biology student

Watts Times—May 7, 2009—Informational brief on the Annual 39th Congressional District High School Arts Competition hosted by the College.

La Mirada Blog—May 8, 2009—Informational brief on the Student Art Exhibition (from press release)


The Downey Patriot—May 22, 2009—Informational brief on the new Insurance Courses (from press release)
The Downey Patriot — May 22, 2009 — Informational brief on Northwood University at Cerritos

Los Cerritos Community News, Norwalk Community News — May 22, 2009 — Article on Northwood University at Cerritos

Herald American — May 28, 2009 — Article mentions the college’s music program partnership with Norwalk-La Mirada USD

Los Angeles Times — May 29, 2009 — Article on community colleges cutting classes mentions Cerritos College offering classes

Long Beach Press Telegram — May 30, 2009 — Article on students protesting cuts to Cerritos College student newspaper.
Cerritos College’s Cosmetology Students to Showcase Talent

Hair and Makeup Runway Show and Networking to Benefit Students

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 28, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

WHAT: Cerritos College Cosmetology and Esthetician students will host a hair and makeup runway show Monday, May 4th. Entitled “Past Present & Future of Beauty,” the event will showcase students’ original hair and make-up design with a live DJ.

Following the runway presentation, there will be networking opportunities for students and attendees to get connected with local business owners, salon owners and fashion writers.

Admission to the event is $1.00. All proceeds will go to the Cerritos College Cosmetology Club.

WHEN: May 4, 2009
7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Cerritos College
Student Center
11110 Alondra Blvd
Norwalk, CA 90650

COST: $1.00 per person

Contact: For more information, please contact Bryan Griffith at (562) 618-1713 or itsy‐ourdime@mac.com.

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 26,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at www.cerritos.edu.

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Cerritos College Hosts 11th Annual Senior Preview Day for High School Seniors

Over 800 High School Students Visit Campus for Day of Tours and Presentations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 1, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. – May 1, 2009 – Cerritos College hosted more than 800 local high school students during Senior Preview Day on Friday, April 24. Students attended the half-day event from 24 area high schools and from high schools as far away as Huntington Park.

The day began with a welcome rally in the gym—complete with games, prizes, and a brief orientation. Following the rally, groups of visiting students were assigned guides who lead them to faculty presentations and facility tours. Following a morning filled with exploration of academic and vocational options, visitors were provided with a free lunch and entertainment in Falcon Square. A booth fair offering the prospective students access to resources such as academic and vocational programs, student services staff members, student club leaders, and athletic information was held in Falcon Square. The college also hosted a special luncheon for high school counselors where specific programs were highlighted.

Every year, Senior Preview Day introduces high school seniors to Cerritos College’s academic and vocational programs, student services, student life and athletic programs. The event showcases Cerritos College and presents individualized program options to high school seniors. College student volunteers give campus tours to the high school seniors and participate in an array of presentations.

“This event provides a fun opportunity for high school students to get acquainted with college life,” explained Shirley Arceo, coordinator of school relations, who orchestrates the event.

“Many of them are still weighing their options between certificate and transfer programs,” continued Arceo. “We’ve found that each year, our visitors are thrilled to discover the variety of options Cerritos College has to offer. They leave Senior Preview Day with future plans and ideas that they may not have had before they attended.”

Senior Preview Day is coordinated by Cerritos College’s Office of Public Affairs that collaborates with the campus community. For more information about attending Cerritos College or to learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities for Senior Preview Day, contact Shirley Arceo at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2129.
Cerritos College Art Gallery to Feature Student Art Exhibition 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 4, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

WHAT: The Cerritos College Art Gallery is pleased to announce its annual exhibition of student artworks on view from May 4, 2009 through June 4, 2009.

The annual student art exhibition features over one hundred student artworks chosen by Cerritos College fine arts instructors from their courses that include photography, drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, computer graphics and design, video and computer animation among others.

The distinguished Los Angeles based artist Karen Atkinson will judge the exhibition. Awards and monetary prizes will be given to students for outstanding accomplishments in their respective disciplines. A reception and awards ceremony for the artists will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

WHEN: May 4, 2009 – June 4, 2009

Exhibiting Hours
Day hours:
Monday – Thursday
10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Evening hours:
Tuesday and Wednesday
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Reception and Award Ceremony: Tuesday, May 5, 2009
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Cerritos College Art Gallery
Room FA50 (Fine Arts Complex Building)
11110 Alondra Blvd
Norwalk CA 90650

Directions, parking and additional information can be obtained from www.cerritos.edu/gallery.

COST: Free and open to the public

CONTACT: For additional information contact the art gallery at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2612 or email at: art-gallery@cerritos.edu
Cerritos College Film Student Wins Media Arts Award

Michele Ervin is the Category Winner of State Competition

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 5, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. – May 5, 2009 – Cerritos College film student Michele Ervin has been named the winner in the film category of the annual Media Arts Award Competition on April 24. Ervin’s film "THE DAY SHIFT" was selected from a field of 38 entries by a faculty screening committee and an industry panel of judges.

The annual competition is conducted by the Multimedia & Entertainment Initiative (MEI) of the Economic and Workforce Development Program of the California Community Colleges. The entries for the competition come from community colleges all across California.

“I had what I call my ‘freeze in time moment’ that feels like time just stops and afterward you can’t remember what happened,” says Ervin, of Cerritos. “It was a tremendous feeling.”

“THE DAY SHIFT” is a drama about a homeless man and a mysterious woman who are not what they appear to be. Ervin’s husband Larry Ervin played the lead character in the film. Ervin recalls the filming on location, “it was fun watching the reaction of people... Larry was dressed as a homeless man and people thought he was real.”

Ervin hopes to become a screenwriter and a producer. To achieve these goals, she plans to learn as much as she can about the film making process.

Ervin’s instructor, Professor Steven Hirohama, congratulated Michele on her award and added “Michele has exhibited some of the key traits of a successful filmmaker – that of painstaking prep work, being resourceful and establishing collaboration with her crew and cast. It’s rewarding as an instructor to see that every project she does gets better and better.”
Cerritos College film production program has been in existence since 2005. Since its inception, Hirohama was integral to develop the film production program. He brings many years of professional experience as a producer, director and a production company owner. Visit Cerritos College film program web site to keep posted on lectures and workshops and also student podcasts, http://cerritosfilm.org. For more information about the film production program, please contact Steven Hirohama at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2637.
NORWALK, Calif. – May 6, 2009 – Cerritos College announced today that its dental hygiene students achieved a 100 percent passage rate on the National Board exam given in the spring 2009.

“The dental hygiene department is extremely happy that all 24 students passed the National Board with an average of 87.4%,” says the Dental Hygiene Program Director Adelle Krayer. “The national average was 84.4%, so we were well above this average. Also, one of our students scored a 99% on the board…this is truly amazing! As you can imagine, we are very proud of our team.”

“In our 36 year history, of well over 800 students, the dental hygiene program boasts a 99.42% pass rate overall,” said the Dental Hygiene Instructor Dani Carroll.

The national board exam is given twice a year. It is an all day written exam that is representative of many years of study. From here, the dental hygiene students will advance on to take their State Board exams in July.

The Cerritos College Dental Hygiene program is accredited by the American Dental Association, Commission on Dental Accreditation. The program has received full accreditation status each seven year accreditation cycle. The Dental Hygiene Program is a two-year degree program. Upon completion of the program, graduating students will receive an Associate in Arts Degree in Dental Hygiene and will qualify to take the National and State Board Dental Hygiene Examinations. Successful passage of the
examinations qualifies the graduate to practice dental hygiene in the State of California. For more information about the Cerritos College Dental Hygiene program, please contact Dani Carroll at (562) 860-2451 ext.2569.
Cerritos College Student Erin Solis Cooks up Success in Culinary Arts Competition

The college’s Culinary Arts Program Takes First Place Two Years in a Row

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 13, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. – May 13, 2009 – Cerritos College culinary arts student Erin Solis won first place in the California State Chancellor’s Office Family and Consumer Sciences’ California Dreamin’ “Dining through the Decades” culinary arts student competition on April 17. The college’s culinary arts program had won the competition two years in a row.

Funded by the California State Chancellor’s Office Family and Consumer Sciences Collaborative Grant, the annual competition includes a skills test in which students cut a whole chicken into eight portions per industry standard and the cooking skills test in which students prepare California Dreamin’ themed entrée using poultry. Students are judged on flavor profile, ingredient compatibility, presentation craftsmanship, timeliness, portion sizing and creativity.

Students representing twelve California colleges, including Cypress College, Orange Coast College, Los Angeles Mission College, San Bernardino College, participated in the competition.

The winning dish Solis prepared was chicken breast stuffed with mission figs and port wine.

Solis, of La Mirada, who holds a B.A. from UCLA in American Literature & Culture, decided to go back to school to Cerritos College for certificates in Chef’s Training and Baking. She was working in the music industry, but when others were laid off from the department in which she worked, she decided it was
time to pursue the dream she had been harboring for a few years. She left her job and enrolled at Cerritos College. In the future, she hopes to land a position cooking in a restaurant where she can learn more about food and the restaurant industry and to one day own her own restaurant.

“We are tremendously proud of Erin’s achievement,” said Chef Michael Pierini, chair of the Cerritos College culinary arts program. “She is a bright, rising star in the culinary world. She will be the one to watch!”
Cerritos College Honors Program Recognizes Graduates

48 Students Complete Honors Courses Beyond Grad Requirements

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 13, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. – May 13, 2009 – Cerritos College’s Scholars’ Honors Program (SHP) honored 48 graduates and a participant in its program Monday, May 11 during its 12th annual graduation ceremony.

Each of the graduates received bronze medallions for completing the full SHP curriculum of six honors courses while maintaining a 3.0 grade point average in transferable courses.

Honoring the SHP students at the ceremony were Cerritos College Acting President/Superintendent William Farmer, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Marilyn Brock, Dean of Liberal Arts and SHP Administrative Liaison Dr. Linda Rose, Dean of Counseling Services Dr. Renée DeLong Chomiak, Faculty Senate President Bryan Reece, the Cerritos College Board Secretary Dr. Bob Hughlett, and the Board Members Dr. Ted Edmiston and Tom Jackson.

SHP Director Timothy Juntilla was master of ceremonies. “With 48 graduates, the Spring 2009 class is the largest single group to complete the SHP requirements,” said Juntilla. Students have received acceptances to four-year schools including Biola, Chapman, Columbia, UC Berkeley, UCSB, UCSD, UCI, UCLA, and Washington University in St. Louis.

Following President Farmer’s greeting, medallions were presented to graduates by Shari Durbin, and certificates were presented by President Farmer.

As the ceremony concluded, Professor Juntilla announced the two winners of the third annual Juntilla SHP Scholarship. Two outstanding students Larina Palacpac and Harsh Shah each received a $500 check and a certificate.

“We have no doubt that each of these remarkable students will continue to reach every objective they set for themselves in the future,” said Juntilla, “just as they have while they were here at Cerritos College and in the SHP.”

The SHP program is the academic and social home that Cerritos College provides for talented and motivated students who plan to transfer to four-year institutions. Through the SHP program, many students have the opportunity to apply and receive prestigious scholarships. Benefits offered to students by SHP include opportunities for independent research with leading faculty members through the Honors Contract program, small-enrollment honors sections of courses needed for transfer, workshops to help in transferring to four-year schools, and scholarships to selected transfer colleges and universities. For more information on the SHP, visit the program’s web page at www.cerritos.edu/shp or contact the SHP office at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2728.
Cerritos College Offers Summer Youth Work Training Program

Employers Needed for Student Internships

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 13, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. – May 13, 2009 – The Cerritos College Pathway Programs Department is pleased to announce that it has been awarded $265,750 from the Southeast Los Angeles County Workforce Investment Board (SELACO/WIB) to serve students for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act’s (ARRA) “Summer Youth Program”.

The Summer Youth Program was created to provide young adults with work readiness training and work experience to help prepare them for a successful entry into the workforce. All students must first complete a short work readiness training course and then shortly thereafter will be placed in internships which correspond in some way with the student’s future occupational interest.

The program runs from May 4, 2009 until August 31, 2009. The program focuses on youth ages 18 to 24 years old and requires that all participants meet specific income requirements and fall into at least one of the program identified target groups.

Program participants can work up to 250 hours. They will be paid a minimum of $8.00 per hour by the program, which allows employers to hire interns at no cost. If you are an employer or student who is interested in finding out more about the Summer Youth Program, please contact Danylle Williams-Manser in the Pathway Programs Department at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2517, or email dmanenser@cerritos.edu.
Cerritos College to Offer Two New Insurance Classes in Summer

Courses Prepare for Highly Demanded Insurance Jobs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 14, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. – May 14, 2009 – The Business Division at Cerritos College will be offering two new insurance courses, Introduction to Insurance and Insurance Code and Ethics, in the summer session. Both classes will be offered in the six week second session beginning July 6.

The Introduction to Insurance course provides a background of the modern property/casualty insurance system, how insurance products and services are distributed to the consumer, explores civil, tort, and contract law, and reviews the basic commercial and personal Insurance Services Office (ISO) insurance contracts.

The Insurance Code and Ethics course is designed for insurance majors and those looking to work in the insurance field. The class addresses ethical considerations one must support in order to succeed in the insurance industry.

Cerritos College is the only community college which offers a new California Insurance Career Program in Southern California. The insurance industry sees a high demand for workers as companies have expressed a concern over the shortage of qualified individuals.

The certificate program at Cerritos College will provide insurance, business and communication skills to prepare students for entry-level positions in commercial insurance. It also provides web-based tools designed to create links between students and employers including company profiles and resume posting. For more information about the insurance courses, visit http://cms.cerritos.edu/accounting/insurance-program or contact Rafael Arredondo at rarredondo@cerritos.edu. To register for classes, call 562-860-2451 or visit www.cerritos.edu.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 14, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. – May 14, 2009 – Cerritos College’s costume design class students competed in the Renaissance Pleasure Faire’s Costume Competition on May 10 in Irwindale. As one of the class projects, each student researched, designed, and constructed an entire costume from the Elizabethan period. Many weeks of hard work paid off, as all three students the college sent won prizes.

Hillary Baca, of Bellflower, won first place in the Adult Peasant Category and Grace Yi, of Garden Grove, won second place in the Adult Nobility Category. Both Baca and Yi are beginning costuming students.

Advanced costuming student Patricia Ramirez, of Cerritos, won the grand prize for creating the best costume in the entire competition. Ramirez created a nobility costume for her five-year-old daughter, Berlin.

Susan Watanabe, costume design instructor, received a special recognition for her continued support of the Faire.

"We are very proud of all three students," said Watanabe. “We have been competing in this competition since 1992 and this is the first time we have won the Grand Prize.”
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 14, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext. 2287

WHAT: Cerritos College’s Liberal Arts Division offers classes in English as a Second Language (ESL) with the start of the spring semester on Tuesday, May 26, 2009. Classes are offered at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels, and are available for $20 per unit (most classes are three units). Several classes are offered during both the day and evening. Summer classes meet four times a week and are available during the first and second 6-week sessions. ESL classes at Cerritos College offer:

- Pronunciation
- Oral communication
- Speaking and listening
- Grammar
- Reading
- Vocabulary
- Writing and structure
- American expressions and culture
- Spelling
- Editing

WHEN: First 6-Week Session: May 26 – July 2, 2009
Second 6-Week Session: July 6 – August 14, 2009

WHERE: Cerritos College
11110 Alondra Blvd
Norwalk, CA 90650

CONTACT: For more information, please contact Lucia Coulter at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2847 or lcoulter@cerritos.edu.

COST: $20 per unit; parking is $1 per day.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 18, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2287

NORWALK, Calif. – May 18, 2009 -- Cerritos College's Teacher TRAC (Training Academy) program honored 45 Teacher TRAC program students Thursday, May 14 as they moved closer to gaining a bachelor’s degree and teaching credential from one of its partner CSU campuses. The new group of graduates joins the growing party of over 350 Teacher TRAC graduates.

Honoring Teacher TRAC students at the recognition ceremony were the Cerritos College Board of Trustees, senior members of Cerritos College administration, Sue Parsons, director of Teacher TRAC, Dr. Daniel O’Connor, chair of liberal studies at California State University, Long Beach, former Teacher TRAC students, Teacher TRAC faculty members, a representative from the office of Congresswoman Linda Sánchez and friends and family of the students. Each graduate received a certificate and a commemorative golden apple in recognition of their completion of the first leg of the Teacher TRAC program.


Scholarship awards were also presented during the event. Hye Cho, Christina Cuevas and Kristina Walsh each received an Eruditio Scholarship for $500 each; Hye Cho received a $2,500 D. Franklin Wright Scholarships, Krystal Vasquez received a $1,000 Fred Gaskin Scholarship that includes a $1,000 match from CSULB; and Fabiola Espinoza received the Esther Espinoza Scholarship in the amount of $1,000.
Maritza Magaña, a Teacher TRAC alumna from the class of 2003, who was named the 2008 Teacher of the Year of Paramount USD, provided closing remarks and encouraged the class of 2009.

“You are getting the best teacher preparation possible. Believe in your own greatness,” said Magaña.

Cerritos College’s Teacher TRAC program offers many services, programs, and pathways for students interested in teaching K-12. For students interested in becoming an elementary school teacher, Teacher TRAC’s flagship program is a partnership with California State University Long Beach. As a student in the integrated, standards-based Teacher TRAC / CSULB program, students can earn their bachelor's degree and multiple subject teaching credentials and complete their student teaching within four years. More information on how to be a part of CTE Teacher TRAC is available at [www.teachertrac.com](http://www.teachertrac.com) or at 562.860.2451 ext.2212.
Cerritos College Honors Graduates at 2009 Commencement Ceremony

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 19, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2287

NORWALK, Calif. - May 19, 2009 - Cerritos College honored nearly 700 graduates during its 52nd annual commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 16. The Cerritos College Board of Trustees and administration presented degrees and certificates earned during the 2008-2009 academic year.

Ms. Brenda Villa, Olympic medalist and Cerritos College assistant women’s water polo coach, served as the commencement speaker. Villa congratulated the graduates on their hard work and encouraged graduates to be hopeful and to look forward to the new challenges life will present them.

“I just want to remind you to follow your hearts even if you believe in something that everyone else thinks is not right for you or conventional,” said Villa from her own experiences as a water polo player.
Cerritos College Professor Invited to Attend the U.S. Institute for Peace

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 20, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. – May 20, 2009 – Dr. John Haas, professor of history and global studies at Cerritos College, has been selected to attend the prestigious United States Institute for Peace in Washington, D.C from June 3 to 7. Dr. Haas is one of 18 distinguished scholars from around the country selected from a highly competitive process, and the only representative from California.

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) is an independent nonpartisan national institution established and funded by the United States Congress. The Institute’s mission is to help prevent, manage, and resolve violent conflicts by empowering others with knowledge, skills, and resources, as well as by direct involvement in peacebuilding efforts.

This year’s seminar is entitled “Global Peace and Security in Community Colleges and the Communities They Serve” and will be held at the Institute in Washington, D.C. The program will concentrate on analyzing issues of global peace, conflict and security and how they relate to the mission and activities that community colleges are engaged in today. The seminar will explore various approaches to teaching and learning centered around the Institute’s mission of conflict resolution and peace building.

“To be selected to represent Cerritos College, our local community in Los Angeles and the State of California is quite an honor,” said Haas. “I have dedicated myself for the past ten years to building the Global Consortium for Sustained Peace and Understanding and have continually sought ways to bring my students together with students around the world to solve the problems that we face. I am humbled to be chosen by the USIP.”

Dr. Haas’ experience is well-documented. He recently was acknowledged by the U.S. Congress for his efforts in building global peace and understanding, established the country’s first global learning community using technology to bring students and faculty together from around the world in real-time to discuss pertinent issues. His Global Consortium program broadcasts to millions of college students each month, discussing and challenging students to tackle the tough problems currently facing our world. Guests of the program have included Dr. Judea Pearl, Ambassador Akbar Ahmed, and the esteemed Noam Chomsky. Programs have included discussions on human rights in Burma, global warming, Darfur, and the the conflict throughout the middle east.

Dr. Haas received his Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University after attending Oxford and CSULA. He currently resides in Claremont, California with his wife and two children.
Cerritos College Student Wins Prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship

All-USA Scholar Monirath Siv Adds another National Honor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 21, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451 ext.2287

NORWALK, Calif. – May 21, 2009 – Monirath Siv, a Cerritos College honors student, has been named one of the nation’s top scholars by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship Program.

Siv, of Long Beach, was among 30 students chosen from nearly 500 applicants from two-year colleges nationwide. The scholarship, which is one of the most competitive undergraduate transfer scholarships in the nation, will provide Siv with up to $30,000 per year to complete a bachelor’s degree.

He will be invited to attend the Foundation’s “Scholars Weekend” at Johns Hopkins University in July, with all travel expenses paid by the Foundation.

“Much like the All-USA Team honor that he received a month ago, this is a VERY rare honor bestowed upon a student and a campus,” said Professor Timothy Juntilla, who assisted Siv through the application process for both awards. “In fact, Monirath Siv is the only Cerritos College student to win either, let alone both, of these national honors.”

Siv, an engineering major, has also been chosen as California’s 2009 New Century Scholar, namely the top student of the state, and named to the All-USA Community College Academic Team in April. Originally from Cambodia, Siv plans to expand his education by double majoring in biomedical engineering and chemistry at Washington University in St. Louis beginning the fall 2009 semester.

“I would like to thank Professor Juntilla during the nomination and recommendation process for the JKC Scholarship and for his constant support,” said Siv. “This scholarship will open me up to many possibilities. It will allow me to attend a top-notch private university in the nation debt-free.”

"Our Undergraduate Transfer Scholars have achieved great academic success, demonstrating a strong will to succeed in spite of pressing financial need. They are some of the best students coming out of community colleges today and we are happy to help them realize their educational goals,” said Dr. Matthew Quinn, Executive Director of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation’s Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship honors excellence by supporting outstanding community college students with financial need to transfer to and complete their bachelor’s degrees at the nation’s top four-year colleges and universities. The Foundation provides up to $30,000 per year to between 30 and 50 deserving students selected annually, making it the largest private scholarship for two-year and community college transfer students in the country.
Cerritos Community College District • 11110 Alondra Blvd. • Norwalk, CA 90650 • www.cerritos.edu

News Release

Cerritos College Dental Hygiene Scores Big in Table Clinic Competition

The Team Takes Home Half of the Top Awards

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 27, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2287

NORWALK, Calif. • May 27, 2009 - Team Cerritos' presence was felt at the California Dental Hygienists' Association meeting in Anaheim Friday May 15. Every year the dental hygiene students compete in an annual statewide table clinic competition.

There were a total of 60 students from nine schools competing. The table clinic competition is a table top presentation addressing a topic in dental hygiene. The students are judged on the quality of the board, the quality of the presentation and topic.

This year Team Cerritos won three of the six top awards including:

Third place in the Original Research Category: “Is there a Hex in Chlorhexidine?” by Brittany Green and Sonia Packer

1. Second place in the Informational Category: “Preventing Preecalpsia” by Anamarie Glass and Kari Yamani
2. Third place in the Informational Category: “Shining the Light on Photodynamic Therapy” by Chris Brooks and Angie Taylor

"We ask the students to do their best, and once again, this year they’ve taken us to a whole new level,” said Dani Carroll, dental hygiene student advisor.

"We are exceedingly proud of the hard work and team spirit that these students displayed in representing the Cerritos College Dental Hygiene Program,” said Adelle Krayer, director of the Dental Hygiene Program.
Great news comes one after another. Students in the dental hygiene program just celebrated their success at the National Boards Examination, a rigorous all-day exam given to students after two years of coursework. All 24 students passed the test and scored well above the national pass rate.

From here, these prize winning table clinic teams will advance to the American Dental Hygienists’ Association national competition in Washington D.C. in June. Three other stellar teams from the Cerritos College Dental Hygiene Program will be joining them in D.C.

The Cerritos College Dental Hygiene Program is accredited by the American Dental Association, Commission on Dental Accreditation. The program has received full accreditation status each seven year accreditation cycle. The Dental Hygiene Program is a two-year degree program. Upon completion of the program, graduating students will receive an Associate in Arts Degree in Dental Hygiene and will qualify to take the National and State Board Dental Hygiene Examinations. Successful passage of the examinations qualifies the graduate to practice dental hygiene in the State of California. For more information about the Cerritos College Dental Hygiene program, please contact Dani Carroll at (562) 860-2451 ext.2569.
Two Cerritos College Accounting Students Receive Scholarships

Jose Luis Ayala and Fatima Lampa Are Outstanding Future CPA Awardees

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 28, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2287

NORWALK, Calif. - May 28, 2009 - Cerritos College students Jose Luis Ayala and Fatima Lampa have each been awarded a $1,500 Outstanding Future CPA Award scholarship from California Society of Certified Public Accountants (CalCPA) Orange County/Long Beach Chapter.

Ayala, of Downey, plans to transfer to the University of Southern California or the University of California, Los Angeles majoring in business accounting next year. He hopes to become a CPA and work for one of the big four accounting firms.

Lampa, of Bellflower, who holds a bachelor’s degree in management economics from Ateneo De Manila University in Philippines, hopes to become a CPA. She will be transferring to California State University, Dominguez Hills in fall while working full-time for the County of Orange Auditor-Controller department. After she becomes a CPA, she plans to pursue her master’s degree.

“We are extremely proud of Jose and Fatima,” said Michael Farina, who co-chairs the accounting department along with Debra Schmidt at Cerritos College. “We are confident they will succeed and achieve their career goals.”

Given once a year, the scholarship was established to support the accounting profession and to ensure the future of the CPA profession by providing financial support to outstanding accounting students who is expecting to transfer to a four-year university or college by the end of the current calendar year.

“We are quite pleased to present Jose and Fatima with the scholarship,” said the Chairman of CalCPA Larry Lamb. “CalCPA raises funds to benefit outstanding students like them. The Orange County/Long Beach Chapter specifically, works hard at reaching out to all colleges in our chapter to give deserving accounting students financial support.”
The Cerritos College Foundation Presents Esther Espinoza Scholarship to Cerritos College Student

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 28, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2287

NORWALK, Calif. – May 28, 2009 – The Cerritos College Foundation presented the Esther Espinoza Memorial Teacher TRAC Scholarship to Fabiola Espinoza* during the Teacher TRAC graduation ceremony on May 14.

Fabiola Espinoza, of Artesia, received the Esther Espinoza Memorial Teacher TRAC Scholarship, presented by Steve Richardson, executive director of the Cerritos College Foundation.

In 2004, the Honorable Peter Espinoza and his siblings, all of whom graduated from Cerritos College, founded the scholarship in memory of their late mother, Esther Espinoza, a teacher in the Norwalk-La Mirada School District for 35 years.

The Honorable Peter Espinoza currently serves as Supervising Judge for the Los Angeles Superior Court and as a board member for the Cerritos College Foundation.

The recipient Fabiola Espinoza has a passion for teaching science. She wants to experience the great satisfaction of knowing that one can make a difference in this world through teaching. She has worked three semesters with a mentor teacher at John Glenn High School and is ahead of the curve having successfully taught many lessons in his biology classes. She is transferring to California State University, Long Beach through the Teacher TRAC program.

“As a teacher, Fabiola will play the key role in preparing our youth for the future,” said Richardson. “We wish her the best in her study and look forward to her role as an educator.”

*No family relationships between Fabiola and Esther/Peter Espinoza.

The Cerritos College Foundation, a non-profit organization, serves as a charitable vehicle for the community, individuals and alumni, to assist with financial support of Cerritos College. Visit the Foundation online at www.cerritos.edu/ccf.
Chugh Firm Presents Accounting and Paralegal Scholarships to Cerritos College Students

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 29, 2009

Media Contact: Aya Abelon, Public Affairs; (562) 860-2451, ext. 2287

NORWALK, Calif. – May 29, 2009 – Two Cerritos College students were each awarded with $1,000 scholarships during the May 14 Cerritos College Foundation Board meeting.

Students Maria Villanueva, of Paramount, and Deedee Sanchez, of Monterey Park, each received The Chugh Firm Accounting Scholarship and The Chugh Firm Paralegal Scholarship respectively.

Navneet Chugh, an attorney-at-law and CPA, established the scholarships to support promising accounting and paralegal students. Chugh is the managing partner and founder of The Chugh Firm and a member of the Cerritos College Foundation Board of Directors.

Villanueva always knew she wanted to become a CPA and began pursuing that dream in 2001. As a mother of two high school students, Villanueva began taking one to two classes at a time so that she would still be able to be a full-time mom. She has earned her associate degree in business accounting and was recently accepted to Northwood University, located on the Cerritos College campus, where she will begin working on her bachelor’s degree in business.

Just a few years ago, Sanchez was terrified with the idea of going back to school yet knew that it was vital in order to provide a better life for her and her children. Sanchez discovered a curiosity and passion for the legal field and is now completing her second semester at Cerritos College while maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA. She has gained experience working at the Juvenile Court in Monterey Park and looks forward to completing her degree and beginning her career as a paralegal.

The Chugh Firm is an international law firm that provides companies with corporate, tax, litigation and immigration services. Offices are located in Cerritos, Northern California, the East Coast, and India. Visit The Chugh Firm online at www.chugh.com.
Cerritos College
Film Student Wins Media Arts Award

Michele Ervin is the Category Winner of State Competition

NORWALK — Cerritos College film student Michele Ervin has been named the winner in the film category of the annual Media Arts Award Competition on April 24. Ervin’s film “The Day Shift” was selected from a field of 38 entries by a faculty screening committee and an industry panel of judges.

The annual competition is conducted by the Multimedia & Entertainment Initiative (MEI) of the Economic and Workforce Development Program of the California Community Colleges. The entries for the competition come from community colleges all across California.

See Cerritos College on page 7

Cerritos College, Continued from page 1

“I had what I call my ‘freeze in time moment’ that feels like time just stops and afterward you can’t remember what happened,” says Ervin, of Cerritos. “It was a tremendous feeling.”

“The Day Shift” is a drama about a homeless man and a mysterious woman who are not what they appear to be. Ervin’s husband Larry Ervin played the lead character in the film. Ervin recalls the filming on location, “it was fun watching the reaction of people. Larry was dressed as a homeless man and people thought he was real.”

Ervin hopes to become a screenwriter and a producer. To achieve these goals, she plans to learn as much as she can about the film making process.

Ervin’s instructor, Professor Steven Hirohama, congratulated Michele on her award and added “Michele has exhibited some of the key traits of a successful filmmaker—that of painstaking prep work, being resourceful and establishing collaboration with her crew and cast. It’s rewarding as an instructor to see that every project she does gets better and better.”

Cerritos College film production program has been in existence since 2005. Since its inception, Hirohama was integral to develop the film production program. He brings many years of professional experience as a producer, director and a production company owner. For more information about the film production program, please contact Steven Hirohama at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2637.
Cerritos College Dental Hygiene Program Celebrates 100% National Board Exam Pass Rate Again

NORWALK — Cerritos College announced today that its dental hygiene students achieved a 100 percent passage rate on the National Board exam given in the spring 2009.

“The dental hygiene department is extremely happy that all 24 students passed the National Board with an average of 87.4%,” says the Dental Hygiene Program Director Adelle Krayer.

“The national average was 84.4%, so we were well above this average. Also, one of our students scored a 99% on the board... this is truly amazing! As you can imagine, we are very proud of our team.”

“In our 36 year history, of well over 800 students, the dental hygiene program boasts a 99.4% pass rate overall,” said the Dental Hygiene Instructor Dani Carroll.

The national board exam is given twice a year. It is an all day written exam that is representative of many years of study. From here, the dental hygiene students will advance on to take their State Board exams in July.

The Cerritos College Dental Hygiene Program is accredited by the American Dental Association, Commission on Dental Accreditation. The program has received full accreditation status each seven year accreditation cycle.

For more information about the Cerritos College Dental Hygiene program, please contact Dani Carroll at (562) 860-2451 ext. 2569.
Cosmetology students display talent

05.01.09 - 02:00 am

NORWALK — Cerritos College Cosmetology and Esthetician students will host a hair and makeup runway show Monday..

Entitled “Past, Present & Future of Beauty,” the event will showcase students’ original hair and make-up design with a live DJ.

Following the runway presentation, there will be networking opportunities for students and attendees to get connected with local business owners, salon owners, and fashion writers.

Admission to the event is only $1. All proceeds will go to the Cerritos College Cosmetology Club.

For more information, call Bryan Griffith at (562) 618-1713.

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Published: May 1, 2009 - Volume 8 - Issue 2

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Northwood at Cerritos
Student Driven by
Unwavering Passion for
Wheels

By Aya Abelon

The automotive industry is often considered a male trade. However, this was not the case for Noemi Castro, an automotive marketing major at Northwood University at Cerritos College and a resident of Norwalk.

“My parents were always supportive...even though the automotive industry wasn’t a typical field for a girl,” Castro laughed.

Castro is the oldest of four siblings. Born in Mexico, she migrated at the age of one year to California with her parents, who were looking for opportunities America had to offer. She grew up in the small town of Janesville, north of Sacramento, where her parents worked in a strawberry field.

Having spent her childhood in a predominantly Caucasian environment where there were few fellow Latinos in school, Castro was very shy and kept everything to herself. She was always interested in cars but never voiced her interest, thinking high school automotive programs were only for boys.

“I've always liked cars ever since I was little. I don't remember playing with Barbie dolls,” laughed Castro, “but nobody told me that the doors (for automotive programs) were open for girls!"

When Castro was a sophomore, a girl from her church said that she was in an automotive technician training program at

Growing up on a strawberry farm, she didn’t really see herself going to a college; however, with an automotive background, Castro received a scholarship and was able to enroll in the Chrysler Automotive Program at Miramar College in San Diego. She received her associate degree in automotive technology in 2005, and worked as a Chrysler certified automotive technician for five years.

Castro found out about the Northwood University program at Cerritos College from a teacher at Chrysler’s annual training session. He knew that Castro was interested in getting her bachelor’s degree in the automotive field and showed her a flyer of the Northwood program. In 2007, she moved to Norwalk to attend Northwood University at Cerritos College. It was a perfect fit for Castro. The accelerated six-week classes helped her reach her academic goal quickly; the teachers who brought in real-life experiences were valuable, and, most importantly, the convenience of taking all necessary classes at Cerritos College and paying only community college tuition until the third year was a significant savings.

She will be graduating in December 2009 with a bachelor’s degree in business automotive marketing.

Castro currently works as a lead research analyst for Polk in Long Beach, where she researches prices and specifications for new cars. She plans on continuing to work for Polk. In the future, she would like to become a field technician in Mexico and collect Mexico’s automotive marketing data.

Northwood University is a traditional four-year private university based in
Environmental event puts
creek, stream quality in focus

On Coastkeeper’s Snapshot Day, hundreds of volunteers collected samples of O.C.’s smaller bodies of water.

BY DEEPA BHARATH
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

HUNTINGTON BEACH • Michelle Weinberger shook the tiny test tube with two little white tablets.

It started to turn pink.

The 12-year-old from Fulton Middle School in Fountain Valley was in Bolsa Chica Conservancy on Saturday morning completing a science class project.

“I learned from it,” she said, after testing some creek water for oxygen levels. “It tells me that we can do a lot better in taking care of the environment.”

Water testing was a popular exercise at the Orange County Coastkeeper’s 7th annual Snapshot Day. On Saturday, environmental groups all over the state were conducting these events to give Californians a closer look at water quality. Hundreds of volunteers from different groups were collecting water samples from their local creeks to have them tested, said Ray Michael Boyack, left, and Shawn Allen, both 13, test water samples during the Orange County Coastkeeper’s 7th Annual California Snapshot Day.

Heimstra, associate director of the Orange County Coastkeeper.

The event is mostly aimed at creating public awareness about water-quality issues and making people more conscious about their environment, Heimstra said.

“The quality of ocean water in Orange County is pretty good,” he explained. “But that’s not the case when it comes to creeks and streams.”

There is no reason why local creeks and streams cannot be cleaner, Heimstra said.

“These are the smaller bodies of water that tend to become polluted because of runoff, he said.

“When I was a little boy, I remember chasing frogs down the local stream,” Heimstra said. “These streams are no longer usable or habitable for small animals because they are polluted by runoff.”

Nathan Vega, a second-year biology major at Cerritos College, said he learned some interesting details from his visit to the conservancy.

“I’m learning that it is good to keep things simple when it comes to the environment,” he said. “It’s as simple as watching what you put down the drain. Simple things, when done by a lot of people, can make a big difference.”

It’s never too late to learn how to take care of the environment, said Michelle’s father, David Weinberger:

“People hear so much about it, but still litter and do things that are not good for the environment,” he said. “After what we’ve done over the years to pollute the earth, the least we can do is start learning and do the right thing now.”

CONTACT THE WRITER: 949-553-2903
dbhath@ocregister.com

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Art Competition Slated

The Annual 39th Congressional District High School Arts Competition will be held May 9, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Cerritos College Student Center, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk.

About 100 students have submitted artwork from high schools around the area including Artesia, La Mirada and Lynwood.

A panel of local judges will select the winning piece, which is then sent to Washington, D.C., to hang in the U.S. Capitol for one year. Free air fare and lodging will be provided for the winning student and one family member to travel to Washington for the award presentation.

Free parking for the competition will be available in the student parking lot.

Information: (562) 860-5050.
Welcome!

Cerritos College Art Gallery to Feature Student Art Exhibition 2009

Written by Alys Alten
Friday, 08 May 2009 20:45

Norwalk—The Cerritos College Art Gallery is pleased to announce its annual exhibition of student artworks on view from May 4, 2009 through June 4, 2009 at the Cerritos College Art Gallery, Room 1150 (Fine Arts Complex Building), 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650.

The annual student art exhibition features over one hundred student artworks chosen by Cerritos College fine arts instructors from their courses that include photography, drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, computer graphics and design, video and computer animation among others.

The distinguished Los Angeles based artist Karen Atkinson will judge the exhibition. Awards and monetary prizes will be given to students for outstanding accomplishments in their respective disciplines. A reception and awards ceremony for the artists will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Directions, parking and additional information can be obtained from www.cerritos.edu/gallery.

Cost is free and open to the public.

Last Updated on Friday, 08 May 2009 20:52
3 single mothers receive child development grants at Cerritos

NORWALK — The Cerritos College Foundation has presented the Alice Wang Scholarship to three students majoring in child development, according to Aya Abeion, the college’s coordinator of media affairs. The recipients were Amy Bungkadintra of Downey, Natalia Contreras of Pico Rivera and Thuhoong Mai of Norwalk.

The scholarship was established in honor of Alice Wang, the wife of foundation board member J.P. Wang.

The Wongs actively support academic endeavors of low-income students through scholarships. Annually, six $500 scholarships are awarded to single parents who major in child development and demonstrate outstanding academics, Abeion said.

Growing up as the neighborhood baby-sitter, Bungkadintra has always loved children. After her own, she decided to begin studying child development. She currently volunteers three hours a day at Kirkwood Christian School in Downey and looks forward to pursuing her career in early childhood education, Abeion said.

Contreras, a mother of four, decided to return to school in 2005 taking one class at a time. Shortly after that, she was hired as a child care attendant for a state preschool program.

Mai has dreamed of becoming a teacher her entire life. While living in Vietnam, she often volunteered her time with an organization which helped poor children attend school, Abeion said.

Upon earning her associate degree this semester, Mai plans on continuing at a California State university to earn her bachelor’s degree in child development.

The Cerritos College Foundation, a nonprofit organization, serves as a charitable vehicle for the community, individuals and alumni, to assist with financial support of...
Memorial Day events highlight weekend activities across region

For more information call Larry Sandalow at the American Cancer Society, (562) 776-2601, Option 3, extension 203 or 1-(800) ACS 2345.


Western dancing: A free Western Dance Social takes place each Thursday beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Norwalk Senior Center, 14040 San Antonio Drive, for all those age 50 and over.

An all-volunteer live band plays two-step dance music and free beverages and snacks are served.

Senior musicians who would like to play country music with the volunteer group are welcome.

For additional information call (562) 929-5580.


Food: "Kill Bill Vol. 1" double feature, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 23, at Norwalk Community Church, 12000 Norwalk Blvd. $5 for adults, $4 for seniors, $3 for children 12 and under.

Visit the website for more information.

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Bingo play: The Norwalk Senior Citizens Center offers bingo each Friday at 11:15 a.m. at the center, 14040 San Antonio Drive. Cards cost 25 cents each and anyone 18 or older may play. Proceeds go to the senior center. (562) 866-7510.

Speakers meeting: The Montebello Realtors Toastmasters Club meets from noon to 1:30 p.m. every Thursday in the City Hall conference room, 1600 W. Beverly Blvd. Guests and prospective members are welcome and lunch is provided.

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit organization which teaches the art of public speaking. (323) 721-3479.

South Gate market: South Central Food Distributors sponsors a farmers market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Monday at South Gate Park, Twyno Boulevard and Walnut Avenue. Fruits, vegetables, herbs, nuts, fish, eggs, honey, baked items and garden plants are available. (323) 774-0159.
Cerritos has new insurance courses

NORWALK – The Business Division at Cerritos College will offer two new insurance courses, Introduction to Insurance and Insurance Code and Ethics, in the summer session.

Both classes will be offered in the 6-week second session beginning July 6.

The Introduction to Insurance course provides a background of the modern property/casualty insurance system, how insurance products and services are distributed to the consumer, and explores civil, tort, and contract law.

The Insurance Code and Ethics course is designed for insurance majors and those looking to work in the insurance field. The class addresses ethical considerations one must support in order to succeed in the insurance industry.

Cerritos College in the only community college in Southern California which offers a California Insurance Career Program.

For more information on insurance courses, visit www.cerritos.edu

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Published: May 22, 2009 - Volume 8 - Issue 5

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Bachelor's degree now easier to attain

NORWALK – Students interested in a bachelor's degree program in business are being encouraged to consider an automotive marketing management program offered through Cerritos College and Northwood University.

Northwood is a traditional four-year private university based in Michigan. Students in the program attend all classes on Cerritos College's campus and take higher-level courses from Northwood instructors after meeting general degree requirements through Cerritos College courses.

Automotive students may also tailor their bachelor's degree to reflect an emphasis in automotive management.

The combined course offerings from both Cerritos College and Northwood University comprise the bachelor's degree program and offer students substantial savings, school officials said. The first three years of the four-year degree cost $20 per unit. The final year of the degree is offered at Northwood's tuition rate but still takes place locally at Cerritos College's campus.

With Northwood serving as the business university at Cerritos College, students who have earned their associate's degree at Cerritos can enroll in Northwood's program to earn a bachelor's of business administration (BBA) degree.

The adult degree program is one of 30 located throughout the country and has become a model for working adults to further their education, according to school officials.

For more information on the bachelor's degree program, contact Northwood's offices at (562) 988-9506 or go online to cerritos.edu/northwood.

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Northwood University Offers Students Bachelor Degree on Cerritos College Campus

There's something new and exciting happening on the Cerritos College Campus. It's called Northwood University, where students can obtain a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration or an Automotive Business Administrative Degree.

"What makes it unique," said Todd Leitbeuser, Executive Director of Southland Motor Car Dealers Association, sponsors of the program, "is students can obtain the degree while living at home, going to work everyday or as a full-time student." He added, "We hope by the end of the 2009-2010 school year to have between 150 to 200 students enrolled."

The program permits students who may already have their associate degree, the opportunity of not moving on to another campus to complete their education. They

See Northwood
CONTINUED ON 7
Northwood
Continued from page 1

don't have to drive down to Cal State Fullerton or Long Beach. They do it all here.
"It's a neat program for California, but not necessarily for other parts of the country," Leutheser stated. He said there are many colleges and universities that pair up with Community Colleges. This program establishes the residency requirements needed in order to receive a degree from Northwood University, which in general is one-year work of study. In so many words, students can earn their AA Degree at Cerritos College, enroll at Northwood University and earn their Bachelor Degree.

Leutheser said hopefully the student's AA Degree is their two English classes, Algebra and History classes and some business curriculum. He said most of the students couldn't have all of them, since they require bearers of study. "We send them back to finish up the necessary accounting, business and what I call the fundamentals building blocks of that particular topic."

Some of Northwood's faculty teaches as Opporipening UCI, Claremont McKenna, and some on the Cerritos College campus. The classes are all 300-400 level courses. They are accelerated and divided up into different parts programs. One might go work with a fully accredited Bachelor Degree to go to any higher education institution in the country.

Northwood operates on the quarter system, Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer. Each quarter [term] is 12 weeks and is divided up into two six-week sessions. Classes are taught one night per week for 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Adult Degree Program
The University is accredited, with its main campus located in Midland, Michigan. Currently it is celebrating its 50th year. The University has three traditional campuses located in Texas, Florida and Michigan. It's a business University. In the 1980's it adopted the Adult Degree Program that is designed for the adult learner who has an Associate Degree and a minimum of five to seven years work experience. Leutheser said special acceptance consideration can be given if the student has relevant management work experience, works during the day, possesses a mature nature and has most of his third year completed. He said the auto dealers became involved with Northwood in the late 1960's. The National Auto Dealers Association Board of directors decided they wanted a University where they could send their sons and daughters to college and receive a fundamental education on running a dealership. Northwood University was approached and said it could develop a program. This is the only college in the United States that offers a Bachelor Degree in automotive marketing and management. The program is marketed through every automobile dealer's association in North America that includes setting up Golf Tournaments. Leutheser said, "We have a scholarship program where we send money back to Northwood for Michigan students. Then someone had the idea. Could we get Northwood to come to California. We contacted Cerritos College and put together the curriculum."

He said the Southland Dealers Association has been around since 1932. It is a 77-year-old Association. In 1999, it was asked by the Dealers to look into whether there was a community college level with an automotive program. "We weren't necessarily looking for a Bachelor Degree program but a program where the dealers could train their and send up our people." Cerritos College has been very supportive of the program, he stated. The New Automotive Center currently under construction on the campus, upon completion, will be the most comprehensive automotive training center in North America. It is a 10,000 sq. ft. facility and hopefully will be completed by February 2010. The Center will include new bays, classrooms, and labs. "It's amazing what we can do collectively," he said. The Southland Dealers Association here in Southern California has contributed $1 million toward this center.

Cerritos College has launched a campaign to raise $4.8 million from the private sector to make a $15 million renovation and expansion of the current auto technology complex possible.

He said the new complex would not be a research facility, describing it as a training center for managing dealerships and businesses as well as working on cars with the majority of the students being conventional students who want a degree in Business Management.

Management Component

Asked about high school students who are not necessarily interested in a college degree but in automobile maintenance, he said there are students presently enrolled in the automotive classes who are told by their instructors that there is a management component to the program if they are interested. Some realize they are halfway there and don't want to be an automobile mechanic all their lives. Those students will begin to track themselves. "The management path is there for them."

Cerritos has five automotive management classes where the students get the fundamental management courses in running a business, so they understand the different component in running a business. "Students who now have their AA Degree and decide to earn their bachelor degree will know a little more than a student who didn't take any of these classes and the instructors get a more professional oriented student."

Cerritos College has agreements with the Southeast ROP where every day after school they have more than 100 students taking classes. They are high school juniors and seniors. Tracy High School has its entire class after school over here, he said, taking basic automotive classes. "Auto-motive technology is changing so fast we have to be prepared for it, whether it is an electric powered car, hydrogen, natural gas or hybrid. We need to indoctrinate the youth [High school students] about these different technologies."

He concluded by saying this was a great opportunity for community residents and students to further their education and enter a good paying profession.
School district uses music to boost student achievement

BY ARNOLD ADLER
STAFF WRITER

NORWALK — Music is known to calm people and make them happy, but can it also result in academic achievement and creativity in students?

Officials of the Norwalk-La Mirada School District think so and Karen Calhoun has proven them right for the past two years.

The former Norwalk High band director has been on special assignment since fall 2007 when she moved to the district office to oversee programs of visual and performing arts in the district.

Morrison Elementary, a federal Title I school with an enrollment of 88 percent Latino and 40 percent English learners, has won numerous state awards since it joined the Music in Education National Consortium’s Learning Laboratory School’s Network in 2005. Since that time, academic achievement has improved. The school registered an above-average 813 on the State API tests in 2008 and is now rated a high performing Title I school.

Morrison was chosen and distinguished school by the state Department of Education last year and won a state achievement award this year.

“Seven out of 10 students live below the poverty line and four out of 10 students have parents who did not finish high school. There was a low level of achievement in reading, math and the arts,” said Calhoun, in a recent report to the school board.

Under Calhoun’s direction, a drum line was established last fall, composed of 26 boys and five girls in the fourth and fifth grades, all of them English learners.

“Subsequent academic testing of the drum line students last October and in February show a dramatic improvement on the tests. Student self-esteem, study habits, self-motivation, focus, personal engagement and self-discipline have all improved,” Calhoun said.

Meanwhile, fourth and fifth grade teacher Lori Knight, who plays the frottole mountain dulcimer, started a dulcimer group which meets after school and has performed at several dulcimer concerts. The approximate 20 students use dulcimers made by her father.

“We encourage schools who have teachers with special skills to conduct their own programs,” Calhoun said. “Teachers at Johnston Elementary have incorporated music into math instruction.”

New programs the past year have included guitar lessons at El Camino, the district’s continuation high school, “there is a waiting list,” Calhoun said; art and ceramics at Corvalles Middle School; and recorder, choir, band and dance classes at Glazer Elementary.

There is also a theater development program at Edmundson Elementary, while Norwalk High and Nuffer Elementary have received grants from the California Arts Council for programs to integrate visual arts with social studies, with guest artists from the Los Angeles Music Center.

“We have also built partnerships with the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts and the La Mirada Symphony and Cerritos College and Biola University,” she said.

“I have been out in the district overseeing the programs. Everyone is excited and the students are enthused,” Calhoun said.

The school board is excited about the program, which will continue next year despite state cutbacks thanks to a state grant of $288,715, she added.

Hired as the director for the award-winning Norwalk High School band 11 years ago, Calhoun established a unique steel pan drum band eight years ago.

“I still teach the steel drum band,” she said. “We have played at educational conferences and Disneyland. There is no competition for such bands.”

She noted there are 27 Norwalk High students in the steel drum band and another 20 from Morrison.

A Long Beach resident, Calhoun was raised in Southern California, earned a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in music education and performance arts (she plays many instruments but her main one is the saxophone) at Cal State Fullerton, and her teaching credentials from Cal State Long Beach and UCLA.

Single, her hobbies are hiking, bicycling and other outdoor activities along with reading of cultural music of drums from different countries.

Calhoun said the fine arts blend well with the technology of the 21st century as the arts help the students tap into their creative abilities.

“Our goal is to bring the arts into every single school,” she said, noting that visual and performing arts programs have been started at 50 schools the past year and more are planned next year.
L.A. cancels most summer school classes

The district’s cuts will increase child care needs and could slow students’ road to graduation or college.

Bhuma Mehta and Jason Song

The Los Angeles Unified School District announced Thursday it is canceling the bulk of its summer school programs, the latest in a statewide wave of cutbacks expected to leave hundreds of thousands of students struggling for classes.

The reductions, which will force many parents to scramble for child care, are the most tangible effect of the multi-billion-dollar state financial cuts to education. Community colleges also have announced summer program cancellations.

“We have said these cuts will be real, they’ll be seen, and they’ll be felt,” said state Supt. of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell. “For kids who want to take challenging courses, for kids who need basic courses in order to graduate, these choices will contribute toward the dropout rate and we will have a less competent workforce.”

Officials from the Los Angeles school district, the state’s largest, said that all summer school classes and most non-academic offerings such as playground and pool programs are being canceled at elementary and middle schools. About 225,000 students enroll in summer courses every year, according to the district.

This year, however, only credit-recovery courses in core requirements will be offered at high schools. Nearly 14,000 students are eligible to take those classes. The moves will save the district $34 million, although officials must cut almost $97 million more before July.

“We were hanging on to hope we could do summer school because it means a lot for all of us. It’s pretty tragic that we can’t,” said Judy Elliott, the district’s chief academic officer.

Many parents said they depend on summer offerings as both educational programs (see Summer, Page A19)
Los Angeles Times (cont’d)
May 29, 2009

Community colleges also making cuts

According to a recent survey by the California State PTA, nearly 48% of parent-teacher organizations in the state report summer-school cuts.

Petaluma City Schools in Sonoma County provided summer school for about 2,000 K-12 students. But the day after the governor proposed the $5.3 billion in education cuts, the district eliminated it for all that special-education students and current seniors and juniors who are in jeopardy of not graduating. The move will save the district $500,000, said Oreste Vignola.

The Laguna Unified School District in Orange County cut its summer school offerings by roughly three-quarters, saving about $500,000. “In every area, we have waiting lists,” said Ron Lehn, a deputy superintendent of the 8,000-student district. “The need is greater than the offering.”

Community colleges are feeling the pinch as well, with the nine-campus Los Angeles Community College District eliminating its second summer session. At one campus in East L.A., 2,100 students had already enrolled.

Fresno College in Clovis and College of the Sequoias in Visalia, among others, are cutting back as well. The summer classes are popular both with college students and high schoolers looking to get ahead on their course work.

For Joseph Colazo, 13, the reduced course schedule probably means a six-month delay to re-entering the workforce.

Colazo previously installed software and maintained computers in classrooms throughout the state.

But after liver and kidney transplants, he has a suppressed immune system and cannot be around germ-carrying children. So he enrolled at Cerrofilm College in Norwalk to retrain as a multi-faceted programmer, a relatively solitary profession that would allow him to earn a living without compromising his health.

But half the program’s offerings were eliminated this summer, so the Bellflower resident can take only two of the five courses he had planned.

“Fix time-consuming and frustrating,” he said.
Students protest cuts to Cerritos College newspaper

Student journalists at Cerritos College are clawing to save the print edition of the Talon Marks newspaper.

Administrators removed the class that produces the 53-year-old paper from the fall schedule in anticipation of severe budget cuts that are crippling community colleges statewide.

The Talon Marks will still publish online. The reporting and writing class that provides content was spared. Two print issues a year would likely be distributed instead of the usual 25 unless compromises can be found.

"This is a slippery slope," says former Editor Erick Galindo, who led a recent newsroom meeting aimed at saving the printed paper. "If they can force us to do this, they can force us to do anything."

Staffers, who have started an online petition to keep the weekly broadsheet in print at www.talonmarks.com, argue that it is a misnomer that college students get all of their campus news from the Web.

"Most of the community we serve gets the paper off the racks and goes to the library or sits under a tree to read it," says Scott Watkins, the spring Talon Marks editor.
The Web site is read primarily by alumni, he says. The 4,000-circulation Talon Marks is not in financial trouble because of a decline in advertising. The newspaper attracts $25,000 to $30,000 a year in advertising on top of the $22,000 it receives from the student government.

Relatively small numbers in the newspaper production class — about 12 last semester — led administrators to cancel it, says Rich Cameron, the newspaper adviser.

“If I could choose one thing that would mark the beginning of the end of my program, it would be the elimination of the print edition of the newspaper,” he says.

Classes targeted for budget reductions generally have fewer than 20 students, says Connie Mayfield, dean of Fine Arts at the 25,000-student campus in Norwalk.

“This is not something that is confined to journalism,” she says, adding that she is striving to be dispassionate, efficient and equitable with program reductions. “This is happening in every department across the campus.”

Cerritos College departments were ordered to reduce class spending by 15 percent. Journalism and Mass Communications will offer six classes in the fall instead of seven.

Mayfield says the Talon Marks is a trailblazer in online community college journalism — something she does not believe will change with an online-only publication.

“I want to brag on our student journalists,” she says. “They produce an online version of the newspaper that is just widely regarded as a model of how to do it up and down the state of California.”

But the Talon Marks’ staff argues that the lack of a printed newspaper could harm the paper’s reputation and eventual status as campus watchdog.

“By not having a print edition there is less visibility for the program, therefore this can also lead to a decline in student enrollment into the program,” a protest letter signed by the Talon Marks staff states.

Cameron and the program are widely respected in the Southern California newspaper industry and journalism education, particularly among four-year universities that receive Cerritos College transfer students.

Students plan to take their plight to the Cerritos College Board of Trustees meeting at 5 p.m. Wednesday in the Cheryl A. Epple Board Room.

They also plan to make pleas before the Norwalk, Cerritos and Downey city councils and contact alumni in the professional media. The Influential Journalism Association of Community Colleges has issued a statement in support of Talon Marks.

But reaching students who are off campus for the summer has proved difficult.

“Our main target right now is to get support from the actual students,” says fall Talon Marks Editor Rick Gomez.

Former Cerritos College journalism instructor Amara Aguilar, who met with the students trying to save the print version, says the issue is preserving a public service, which should trump funding concerns.

“Your objective should be to uphold the First Amendment and the student press,” she says.

The exact cost of the print production class was not available. Mayfield says it is based on a formula that includes a percentage of the adviser’s salary and benefits.

Cameron’s pay will not be reduced with the print edition, as he has other assignments.

However, he says the cutbacks will mean one less class for a part-time lecturer.

Mayfield says advertising revenue cannot be used to pay for a faculty member to teach the production class, per the state education code.

Cameron says he has suggested publishing monthly, as nearby Cypress College does, but the administration has rejected the idea. So have students, who prefer a weekly edition.

Online national advertising mainly goes to College Publisher, a company that provides free Web site platforms to student newspapers.

Another issue, Cameron explains, is that much of the income comes from national advertisers who may not buy space in a less-frequent publication or return as customers if the Talon Marks is revived as a weekly.

“You can’t just turn the spigot back on,” he says.

Though she did not want to rule out bringing the print edition back if the budget picture improves, Mayfield says she expects other cash-strapped colleges to go online-only.

“I suspect we are not the only school going in this direction come the fall,” Mayfield says. 

john.canalis@press Telegram.com, 562-499-1273