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NORWALK, Calif. - May 27, 2010 - Cerritos College's costuming students competed in the Renaissance Pleasure Faire's Elizabethan Costume Competition on May 16 in Irwindale. As one of the class projects, each student researched, designed and constructed an entire costume from England’s Elizabethan period.

Many weeks of hard work paid off, as both students the college sent won prizes.

Alba Bermudez won first place in the Adult Peasant Category and Patricia Ramirez won second place in the Adult Nobility Category. Bermudez, of Whittier, is a beginning costume student and Ramirez, of Cerritos, is an advanced costume student.

Both students spent months building every piece of their costume from the corset out including the hats. They worked in the costume shop until 3:15 a.m. before the competition.

Susan Watanabe, costume design instructor, has been sending Cerritos College costuming students to this competition for nearly 20 years.

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"We are proud of these students for their dedication and many hours of hard work," said Watanabe. “These are very difficult, time intensive projects. Their drive to complete their projects down to the minute details and still meet the deadline are work qualities that will ensure success in whatever career they choose. These are the type of work ethics we try to instill in all of our students.”

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 averages 23,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at http://www.cerritos.edu/.

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