Cerritos College recognizes industry members for advisory roles

Thirteenth annual breakfast features LAEDC’s chief economist

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NORWALK, Calif. – April 14, 2011 – Cerritos College hosted nearly 300 industry professionals and college staff at the 13th annual Advisory Committee Members’ Recognition Breakfast on Thursday, April 14. Members of 45 individual committees include business, industry and community leaders who preside on various advisory committees at the college to provide consultation and development of career and technical education programs.

“Advisory committee members help us prepare students to enter the workforce by giving us input on program offerings and course content,” said Nick Kremer, executive dean of Community, Industry and Technology Education at Cerritos College. “In light of California’s economic crisis, the committees’ advice and support are key, not only to the college’s successful career and business education programs, but also to our state’s recovery.”

Dr. Nancy Dayton Sidhu, chief economist of The Kyser Center for Economic Research of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, served as keynote speaker for the breakfast.

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Dr. Sidhu is responsible for interpreting and forecasting economic trends in the Los Angeles region (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura counties), and for analyzing the major industries of the region. Utilizing this information, she helps develop job retention and creation strategies for Los Angeles County.

She said the economy in Los Angeles is beginning to recover. International trade, tourism and entertainment are leading the way. The local unemployment rate is somewhat declining; however is still high at over 12 percent. She predicts slow recovery for the county and the “gateway” region within the county where Cerritos College is located.

Dr. Sidhu recognized community colleges’ role in job training. “It is the role of community colleges to train (workforce) and to facilitate so much of the hiring that takes place amongst the companies in Los Angeles County,” she said. “We are proud to count many community colleges as members of our group.”

Advisory committees at Cerritos College provide college departments with advisement and industry currency in areas including administration of justice, automotive, business administration, composites, computer and information sciences, culinary arts, nursing, welding and woodworking.

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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