This year promises to be very busy with the completion of the Accreditation Self Evaluation in preparation for the March 3–6, 2014 Accreditation team site visit. The draft report is scheduled to be distributed to the campus for input on Friday, September 13. I would like to extend special thanks to the many faculty, staff, and administrators who have spent countless hours working on the report.

In regards to the college budget, we are finally exhaling instead of holding our breath as we have done during the past three years. The college will be receiving slight increases in general apportionment and some increases for categorical programs. The final 2013-14 college budget will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at its September 18 regular meeting. The college will host a campuswide budget forum shortly after that date to discuss the specifics and what the future may bring.

The college has continued to make tremendous progress toward developing and implementing the strategic plan focused on student success despite limited resources. The 7 Circles guide the development of college strategic goals with measurable objectives and activities identified for ongoing improvement.

The college’s bond program is also progressing quite well. The Liberal Arts/DSPS building is materializing before our eyes and is scheduled for completion in summer 2014. All of the bond-funded projects can be viewed on the Facilities Master Plan website at www.cerritos.edu/master-plan.

I know that the next couple of weeks will be hectic, but there is always an air of excitement; you can feel the students’ energy as they begin or continue their journeys to complete their educational goals. Please remember that we are all in a position to make positive connections to help our students succeed.

I welcome you to the start of the 2013-14 academic year!

Sincerely,
Dr. Linda L. Lacy
President/Superintendent