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NASA engineer sparks 'Curiosity' among students



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Jet Propulsion Laboratory operations engineer Tom Nolan spoke to students and attendees about the rover, Curiosity, at Cerritos College on Sep. 18, thanks to the Cerritos College's Economic Development and Pathway Program Departments in collaboration with the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

The rover Curiosity is currently exploring the chemistry of Mars' surface.

Nolan said, "We don't think there is life there right now, there could be, but we don't think there is. We are open to what the evidence tells us."

The rover landed on Mars on Aug. 5 and it will stay there one martian year, which equals to about two Earth years. The rover will remain on Mars for as long as possible, but engineers calculated its life span.

Nolan explained the differences between the rovers.

"In 1997, Pathfinder was launched (and) it was a proof of a concept mission. It didn't do much, (there was) a little bit of science in it. It was really to say, 'Can we maneuver on another planet?' And the answer is yes," he said.

Former research engineer manager William Somsak worked for JPL back in 1965. Somsak said, "Nowadays, technology will allow Curiosity to obtain a lot more information."

"We didn't have the technology (JPL) had. We were running software much slower back in '65 when the surveyor landed on the moon. Its real job was to only take pictures."

Consequently came the rovers Spirit and Opportunity; some improvements were made to these rovers.

"We did them a little bit smarter, a little bit bigger. We made two rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, (and) we landed them on two different parts of Mars. (They) landed on op-

posite hemispheres to see what the different terrain was like," said Nolan.

With the discovery of water on Mars, scientists expect to find the simplest form of life in the water, but as of now the only water they have discovered is in the form of ice, which doesn't allow any life form to develop.

Nolan said, "Now we just landed Curiosity (in) August, which is much bigger than the others. It's going to do the chemistry of what habitats are like, or if there could be life in Mars or if there has been (previously)."

Curiosity has been designed to maneuver Mars' unsteady surface. Previous rovers encountered problems like getting stuck in places where a lot of rocks or craters will stop them from moving around.

"Curiosity is more than double the size of the previous rovers; it has the science of chemistry in it. Before we had geology, but not chemistry. So as we go out, we are looking for the different science disciplines," added Nolan.

About 50 years ago, Somsak worked with Richard C. Hoagland, who worked for NASA's JPL. According to Somsak, some of the theories Hoagland made about Mars since then are now scientifically proven.

"We are beginning to put things together. I find it very interesting to see the things Hoagland once said from his studies, are being proved," said Somsak.

Nolan added about Curiosity's landing, "We landed in a beautiful crater where this rare lake could have been, and it's got a great geology. We can tell the history of Mars."

"So we can tell at what point there could have been life. If we look at that layer and see if that is where there was habitat for life."

Currently, life outside our planet still remains unknown.

Out of this world: Students and attendees gather up to take a closer look at the space rovers. Former Research Engineer Manager William Somsak, with rover Curiosity in hand, explains its features to students.

TANIA OLIVAS/ TM

College wants another \$350 million

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The Cerritos College Board of Trustees has come to an agreement that students would greatly benefit from a campus-wide architectural face-lift.

The passing of the \$350 million bond proposition means that it will be placed on the November ballot, under the title name Measure G.

The Facilities Master Plan for Cerritos College is a detailed layout of numerous renovation projects, which addresses a variety of issues in regard to the aging campus. The proposed bond will fund several renovations and construction projects through the projected year 2025.

Board of Trustees President Bob Arthur said, "The Facilities Master Plan is our roadmap to better prepare students for high-skilled jobs and transfer to four-year universities."

Some of the buildings proposed to undergo construction are as follows:

- Business Education/ Language Arts
- Child Development Center
- Mathematics
- Fine Arts
- Health and Wellness

- Performing Arts Center

Much of the planning process is still considered conceptual and is serving as a guideline of sorts with the ultimate goal of maximizing functional space, eliminating non-functional space, and improving the efficiency of sites and facilities.

Dr. Linda Lacy, president and superintendent of Cerritos College said, "Our students need an adequate learning environment that is updated with current technology."

She goes on to say, "The community is making an investment for themselves, an educated community is critical."

Among the projects she is most excited to see completed are the mathematics and fine arts buildings, as well as the gym.

With many of the buildings on campus being more than 50 years old, the Board of Trustees has high hopes for Measure G to pass on Nov. 6.

Modern repairs and upgrades will offer a higher level of safety, as well as easier accessibility to inviting study areas for current and future students.

Here is a break down of the projected costs:

- Building/Classroom Renovations- \$20M
- New Construction- \$264M
- Site Projects- \$31M

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Scan to view the list of projects that would be funded by Measure G



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- Campus Wide Projects- \$35M

If the bond measure is passed come election time, Cerritos College students will soon be hearing many more construction workers with power tools in hand, drilling away toward a technologically modern learning environment for all future students.

2012 BALLOT MEASURE G



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED BY LAUREN GANDARA/TM
Under construction: Measure G has been signed to be put under the November ballot by Cerritos College Board of Trustees. The measure will help renovate and rebuild old, run-down buildings on campus.



Preaching On Campus: Volunteer Jason Roberts walks around Falcon Square on the Cerritos College campus with a sign talking about sin. Roberts attends Cerritos Christian Fellowship Church, but travels to different colleges with an anonymous religious group preaching about Christianity.

LAUREN GANDARA/TM

Religious groups preach on campus

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Religious groups walking around campus, yelling at students about the word of God and eternal life are a common occurrence around the Cerritos College campus.

However, students feel that the way these groups go about preaching their beliefs might not be the best way to reach out to them.

On Wednesday, two men from an anonymous religious group came onto the campus in order to preach their Christian faith. One carried a sign while the other stood in Falcon Square and preached to students sitting on "The Hill." Both also handed out pamphlets.

Marine Corps trainer Jason Roberts, who held the sign and handed out pamphlets, said he was on campus to "share the gospel."

He stated that different people from local churches and religious groups get together and go to different areas and different college campuses in order to preach to students about be-

coming one with their faith.

Roberts said that he and his partner visited Fullerton College the day before. Their reason for visiting Cerritos College was that "lots of students, lots of people need to hear that there's coming the day of judgement but God's rich in mercy today if they turn to him (God)."

He carried the sign which had the phrase, "Sin Brings God's Wrath" and handed out pamphlets on the importance of reading the Bible and praying, while his partner, Minister Tatsuo Akamine, professed his beliefs and the importance of faith to students.

As for the effect their preaching has on students, Roberts said, "When he's (Akamine) proclaiming the truth and telling people of the truth, there's only some (students) that absolutely reject and with disdain, but God's going to move to the heart of someone."

Akamine stated his reason for projecting his beliefs toward the students is so he can reach to a broader audience.

"I think a lot of people listen because of the kind of responses I get, whether negative or positive."

Someone who disagrees with Akamine's method is nursing major Antwanee Hilt, who feels that his yelling toward students isn't the best way to go about professing faith.

"You're just yelling and people might not understand what you're saying."

She feels that most students don't pay attention to what these groups have to say because they are at school. It's about what you're doing in your classes rather than discussing what you believe in.

Unlike Hilt, graphic design major Diego Colmenares admires what Akamine is doing.

"I'm a Christian myself and I think it takes a lot of courage for him to stand there."

Colmenares stated that while yelling to students might not be the best approach, at the same time it might be the only chance students will get to hear the gospel.

"It's not about church, it's not about religion, it's about a relationship with God through his son, Jesus Christ," said Roberts.

Veterans Resource Center is top program in state of California

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Recognized by the California Community College Chancellor's Office as the best practicing veterans program in the state is the Cerritos College Veterans Resource Center Program.

The Veterans Resource Center is a program that Cerritos College offers to veterans with services that strive to ease their transition back into college life.

Veterans Resource Assistant Crystina Davila believes that the program is very effective because of the personal connection coming from the staff.

"I believe our program is really good because we have staff that genuinely care about the vets, mainly because most of us were vets or some of us are related to vets, and with that I think it allows us to better understand the needs of some of these vets," she said.

Work study veteran Johanna Pena said, "There are many applications that veterans need to fill out, like applying for benefits and financial aid. Those types of things can be confusing, so the vets come to us to help them with the process."

Veteran and Bio-Chemistry major John Quitiquit said, that he was fortunate enough to have found out about the Veterans Resource Center.

"When I first enrolled into Cerritos College, I was asked if I was a veteran. When I said yes, my attention was pointed to the Veterans Center. Ever since then, my life has been a lot easier especially with all of the new benefits that they have which caused me to transfer from Long Beach City College," he said.

Some key benefits that have helped veterans like Quitiquit a great deal have been financial aid and student housing.

He said, "It (Veterans Resource center) has allowed me to go to school as a full time student, and it handles all of my living arrangements so that I don't have to worry about anything and can just focus on my schooling and my future."

Veterans Resource Center Director Nancy Montgomery, explained how the housing works.

"Transitioning from returning from the service to school can be challenging, so we have outside collaborating partners who, when we call them, can pick up the student and take them to the housing, providing a temporary place for them and setting them up with whatever they need to help them get on their feet."

Veteran and Bio-Chemistry major Albert Hernandez, is very grateful for what the Veterans Resource Center has done for him.

"It really helped me out a lot with getting the classes that I needed. It allowed me to get priority registration which is a huge benefit," he said.

The Veterans Resource Center also provides mental health counseling, as well as health benefits with ties to the Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, dedicated to meet all of the needs of any Cerritos College veteran.

The Veterans Resource Center also introduces veterans to the Student Veterans Club, which is specifically designed for returning vets who do not know anyone at school, who want to meet and connect with other veterans and work together for volunteer work such as blood and food bank drives.

Project HOPE 'Eats For Education'

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Students were invited to eat and raise money for the "Eat for Education" fundraiser that was hosted by Cerritos College's Project HOPE at Frantone's Restaurant on Thursday, Sept. 20.

Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere) is a support program that helps students in the health and science fields by awarding academic scholarships and providing them with training and education.

Project HOPE takes a holistic approach to supporting student success by providing academic support, leadership skill-building activities, and much more.

"We do a lot of activities including community service for our students. We offer tutoring, we bring guest speakers, we do field trips and for the last several years we've been offering scholarships to students," said Project HOPE Coordinator Maggie Cordero.

Participants attended the "Eat for Education" event and showed their support by dining and having 25 percent of their purchase donated to the 2012-2013 Project HOPE scholarships.

There are two types of scholar-

ships from Project HOPE that are available.

One scholarship is the Promising Scholarship for students who are planning on getting their AA or transferring to a four-year university.

The second available scholarship is the Transfer Scholarship for students who are in a nursing/health program or who are transferring to a four-year program.

"I'm here to support the students and hopefully get them money for scholarships."

CARLA YORKE
Pathways Department Facilitator

Christian Manser, undecided major, is one of the supporters who dined at Frantone's Restaurant.

He said, "I'm actually a new member of Project HOPE. I'm here because I just want to know more about the program itself."

Cerritos College Pathways Department Facilitator Carla Yorke also supported the scholarship program by showing up and dining in.

"I'm here to support the students and hopefully get them more money for scholarships. We definitely want to raise as much money as possible

Mobile News



Scan to visit Project HOPE's website.



<http://bit.ly/Sjx4v7>

and there are different opportunities for people to participate at our upcoming events and support the scholarships," Yorke said.

Flyers for the "Eat for Education" events were distributed around the college campus.

The next event will be at Five Guys restaurant on Oct. 12 from noon to 6 p.m. in the city of Cerritos, Calif.

For more information about Project HOPE or about how you make a donation, contact Maggie Cordero at (562) 860-2451 ext. 7847 or you can also visit the website at www.cerritos.edu/hope



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