

CERRITOS COLLEGE TALON MARKS

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Under a magnifying glass



ILLUSTRATION BY: JONATHAN GARZA/TM
Accreditation: Cerritos College takes a good look at itself to ensure that it is meeting the needs of students in preparation of next year's accreditation evaluation.

Cerritos College readies for accreditation

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In preparation for a review from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), Cerritos College has begun the self-evaluation processes for the college and its services.

"It's a self-reflection," Dr. Frank Mixson, Co-Chair of the Accreditation Faculty said. "It's designed for the college to take a good look at itself and determine how well it is performing or engaging in processes that the accreditation commission feels are important."

The self-evaluation is a process that the college undergoes every six years to determine if it is meeting the guidelines set up by the Commission, or ACCJC, to renew its accreditation.

When a school is accredited, it means that it has met the standards of a board such as the ACCJC.

Recently the ACCJC has come to the attention of many after it announced that the City College of San Francisco failed to meet its standards, making its future unsure.

San Francisco recently brought a lawsuit against the ACCJC alleging bias on the part of the board.

The only college to lose its accreditation has been Compton Community College in 2005.

The loss of accreditation can have a major effect on any public college.

"(It) means you can't receive state funding nor can you receive federal financial aid for your students," Cerritos College President Linda Lacy said. "It, in essence, shuts down a public institution."

The ACCJC reviews colleges on four major

standards such as the college's "mission," student services, resource management, and leadership.

"Each of those four standards then have all these sub-standards," Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Joanna Schilling said, "and they give us very specific questions."

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— JOANNA SCHILLING
VP of Academic Affairs

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To better focus on each guideline and determine how well each of the four main areas are covered, different sub-committees were created.

Each committee is dedicated to one of the four major standards and determines if the school is meeting each of the sub-standards.

"Every standard has a committee," Schilling said, "and what they've been working on for the last two years is compiling this report and updating it as new things happen."

According to Lacy, the guidelines given to the college cover as many areas as possible to see if the college is giving students adequate service.

"There are some things that deal with financial aid, there are some of the things that deal with admissions and records (and) whether our student's records are secure."

It is the job of each committee to determine if the standard it was assigned is being met.

If one of the committees decides that its standard is not being met, it is that committee's responsibility for designing a plan to improve the area.

"If you found in the evaluation process (that) there's something you want to work on, then you

would add a planning agenda," Lacy said.

"It gives you an idea of what you want to work for in the next six years."

Currently the college is in the process of completing the draft of the self-evaluation before it is presented for approval to the Board of Trustees in November.

"What's going to happen in September is (that) we (will) go through all the shared governance committees, including the ASCC, and we'll include an executive summary of where we think we are and then links to the full report (online)," Schilling said.

The draft will also be posted in its entirety online allowing anyone to read through the college's findings.

Open forums will be held to gather input from those who want to share their views on the report.

"This is not the opinion of one or two people," Mixson said. "The report should be a strong consensus of the college."

Mixson said that the school wants to go beyond just satisfying the guidelines laid out by the ACCJC.

"Even when we meet the standards, we're still trying to improve. Perhaps we're offering services to students (in person), but we want to offer those services online as well."

"So we're doing a great job in person, but we want to make sure that online students are having the same opportunities for services."

Bookstore helps students hold on to cash

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a big benefit," he added.

Auto mechanic technician Marco Estrada said, "It gives you time to use what you need, then you can give it back. It's a lot cheaper than buying the book."

The Cerritos College Bookstore has expanded its book rental program to increase the amount of textbooks available in the store for rental.

The changes to the rental program came into effect at the beginning of the semester.

According to store manager Mando Quatel, the store had been offering about 20 to 25 percent of textbooks for rent last semester.

"Our goal was that we wanted to be a lot higher than that. We wanted to be able to offer affordable textbooks to the students, and it was definitely an item we were working on with President Lacy, as well as some of the leadership on the campus," Quatel explained.

Currently, the bookstore offers around 43 percent of its books for rent and hopes to increase the number.

With this new "Rent All" program, Cerritos College and Follett (the company that owns the Cerritos College Bookstore) are aiming to cut down on the high prices textbooks generate and leave more currency in the pockets of the student body.

"It's not the full price," Briana Sandoval (criminal justice major) said. "You can use it and then actually just give it back when you're done."

Briana also stated that the program has "saved me money."

Abraham Luna (architecture major) believes that Rent All "is cheaper and you pretty much get your money's worth."

It's a big money saver and that's

Still, students like Sandoval like to buy the book instead of renting only if the text corresponds with the course and major they're involved with.

Rent All opens up more opportunities for the college student when it comes to acquiring textbooks needed for the semester's classes.

Cerritos College's campus is one of 15 other campuses that were chosen out of 950 campuses across the nation.

According to store manager Mando Quatel, the Cerritos College Bookstore was picked for a variety of reasons.

"The number one reason was the fact that we had a lot of adoptions into our system already," Quatel said. "With that, they also looked into the fact that they would like to expand the program a bit at Cerritos because we had a very nice selection."

Students can save up to 50 percent off of new textbooks with the new Rent All program.

While the students will be able to rent out textbooks, they will not

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Scan to visit the bookstore website



<http://bit.ly/15fG6XX>

Gary Pritchard steps in as full-time dean

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Gary Pritchard has become the full-time Dean of fine arts and mass communication.

Pritchard served as interim dean last academic year.

He has been teaching for Cerritos for at least 14 years as a music instructor holding both full-time

and part-time positions. Not only is he a dean of Fine Arts and Communication, he also serves on the Capistrano Unified School District board.

Cerritos College President Linda Lacy said about the decision, "He was the top choice coming from the faculty and we are very pleased with our selection."

Pritchard said about his new position, "I enjoy the work, I like

dealing with lots of challenges. Each day poses a new challenge. I like my work with the faculty, the classified staff, and the students."

Jony Nader, art major and commissioner of convocations and fine art, shares the same views as Gary Pritchard.

"We both believe that this school is full of talented individuals who deserve to have their art seen and admired by their peers. I expect

Dr. Pritchard to work together with myself, the numerous clubs and departments of Cerritos College and the ASCC to bring to light some of the hidden talents we have stowed away within our campus."

Pritchard oversees all the divisions from art and design to theatre and film arts. He talks about how he wants to find ways to incorporate more students.

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PHOTO BY: LUIS GUZMAN/TM
New dean hired: New Dean of Fine Arts and Communications Gary Pritchard (right) advises photography major Ashaka Matthews on his courses for the next .