

# Homecoming 2013: Comic-Con



COURTESY OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF CERRITOS COLLEGE  
Cindy Phan dresses as the Wicked Witch in a banner for Homecoming. ASCC decided to choose Comic-Con as the theme for this semester's event taking place in October

## New theme chosen to spark creativity

DANIEL QUINTERO  
Staff Writer  
daniel.quintero@talonmarks.com

Clubs prepare to take off after the announcement of Comic-Con as this year's Homecoming theme.

This year's homecoming theme and schedule were among the things discussed at the annual homecoming kick-off luncheon Thursday.

Excitement ran high as this year's homecoming theme was announced to be "Comic Con."

"I want to scream out loud," said German Sanchez, president of the sci-fi club. "There's a theme that caters to the nerds of Cerritos College."

Student activity coordinator Amna Jara helped pick the theme, taking input from student leaders and discussing it with staff.

"We wanted something new and something broad so we can have really good floats," Jara said.

Participating clubs will have a budget of \$400 to build a float that fits with this year's theme.

While the theme is expected to

bring in creative floats, some clubs are finding it difficult to come up with ideas.

"Our first thought was what are we going to do," math club co-advisor Angie Conley said. "Who's the superhero that uses math?"

With last year's theme being Broadway musicals and the previous year's being rock 'n' roll, the music club is up for a challenge.

"Since there aren't any musical superheroes, we don't know what exactly can relate to us," music club president Gabriel Garcia said.

Some clubs have already started brainstorming on float ideas.

Sanchez said he's leaning toward something that not many people are going to see and something that is "interesting to do visually," such as "Godzilla."

According to Sanchez, who is also vice president of the anime club, the anime club is planning to do something based on the anime "Attack on Titan."

The math club has also started brainstorming with Conley, hint-

ing that "it's going to be a superhero that has brains just as much as (he has) brawns."

Not all clubs are planning on participating in this year's homecoming activities.

Cosmetology club president Celina Gonzalez said that due to its busy schedule, the cosmetology club might not participate in the float building activities.

"We would like to participate, but we have tournaments coming

up in September," vice president of speech and debate Miles Aiello said. "It takes a lot of prep. It takes a lot of time, so I don't think we will be participating this year."

Clubs will also be able to choose to sponsor someone for the homecoming court.

Homecoming applications will be available on Sept. 23 in the Student Activities office and will be due on Oct. 2 at 9 a.m.



PHOTO BY: DANIEL QUINTERO/TM  
Students eat at the Homecoming Luncheon while waiting for this year's theme

## Job Placement Center helps students find work

LUIS GUZMAN  
Multimedia Editor  
multimedia@talonmarks.com

The Job Placement Center is where people can get free employment services for those in the Cerritos College community.

Job Placement Center provides info regarding employment opportunities on and off the campus such as part-time work, full-time work and internships.

Terrie Lopez, director of Career and Assessment Services, goes on to talk about the purpose of the Job Placement Center.

"The main mission is to guide and assist students throughout their job search process. This is done by helping students identify their skills, interests and values and how they factor in when looking for a job."

Not only that, but the Job Placement Center also provides help with a student's interview skills and creating resumes through various workshops.

Rose Vazquez, Career Services administrative assistant, talks about the difficulties students have when they are in the process of finding a job.

"It is very time consuming, so a lot of students don't take the time to prepare themselves. That's something that our employers that have come to our job fairs have told us."

Vazquez expresses that students aren't confident themselves, when it

comes to finding a job.

"A lot of (students) don't feel like they have any experience. I can tell you that even if you don't have a specific work related experience, students have experience were they got involved with community service or at their local churches, even on campus and in their clubs."

The Job Placement Center has a lab with computers and folders with job listings that can help with the job search.

For the actual job interview, counselors at the Job Placement Center will do mock interviews to sharpen their communication skills when it comes to a real interview.

Jorge Rios, Job Placement technician, talks about how students should go about using their services. "If you come in, sign in up front with the receptionist, in the back we have cubicle that is strictly for job placement."

"We have a variety of job placement binders such as the categorized job listings, we have two of those, we include in the binders office work and labor market information."

The Job Placement Center is open Mondays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The center will also be hosting a Resume Basics workshop on Oct. 1 and again on Oct. 8 from 11 a.m. to noon in Business Education 105.

## Solicitors can be a disturbance or a benefit to students on campus

ALEX GOMEZ  
Associate News Editor  
alex.gomez@talonmarks.com

When he first started asking students to join LA Fitness, Boris Arias felt the cold shoulder from students as a solicitor on the Cerritos College campus.

"Because it is my first sales job, when I started working here it was pretty tough because I got rejected a lot," Arias said, "the students didn't like the idea of our one week passes because they felt we were trying to catch them in."

When it comes to vendors on campus, the overall theme is that students don't like being harassed.

"Obviously people don't want to be insulted or bugged," said psychology major, Genesis Arreaga.

While advocating free tuition for higher education with the Peace and Freedom Party, James Joseph said he preferred to sit at his table and wait for student to approach him because he couldn't relay his message if he was following students.

"I prefer not to harass the students. I think that if they don't like what I'm saying, they can leave. Those who want to talk to me will come," said Joseph.

With this mindset, more student are likely to feel comfortable, according to Cecilia Palomera, a psychology major.

"As long as they don't bug me or harass me on my way to class, like by trying to stop me, I'm okay with them," Palomera said, "but if I want

the information I'm definitely going to go towards the booth."

Students' attitude toward solicitors depends not only on the way the vendors approach the students, but also on how the students feel at that specific time, Arreaga said.

"If the student is having a good day, he or she will cooperate, but if they're rushing to class, they'll most likely want them (solicitors) to back off."

Arreaga only had a problem when a man tried to spread the word of God through an obscene act.

"There was a guy here that had a huge sign that said, 'You're going to Hell!' Arreaga said, "because I'm someone who believes, I know it is something they're supposed to be doing, but there are other ways to do it (spread the word)."

Despite the struggle of being shot down, Arias saw his presence as beneficial to the campus.

"I'm a life changer. That's what I call myself because I feel I'm out here to change life by promoting fitness and wellness, Arias said.

"I don't feel I'm selling anything I just feel like I'm spreading the word."

Melissa Duenas, a chemistry major, also said that LA fitness was the most relevant booth on the Cerritos College Campus because it encourages students to exercise.

"College is stressful and students overwhelm themselves and gain a lot of weight because of it," Duenas said.

## Convocation raves: 'Year of Recovery'

DENNY CRISTALES  
Sports Editor  
sports@talonmarks.com

Dr. Linda Lacy calls this school year 'the year of recovery' as aspirations for superior educational planning, remaining fiscally strong, reducing textbook costs and preparation for the upcoming accreditation, among other things, were the topics discussed Thursday, Sept. 19 during the Cerritos College Convocation at the Burnight Center Theater.

"It was very informative," David Betancourt, coordinator of the Center for Teaching Excellence, said.

"You become invested in your day to day teaching in the classroom and it's nice to be here, sit back and know what's happening in the big picture here on campus."

Talks of change and steps in the right direction echoed throughout the theater, as faculty and representatives of Cerritos College each had time to share their plans and concerns around campus, most prominently being financial concerns.

Lacy explained that in the previous three years, Cerritos college lost 16 million dollars from a 90 million dollar budget, and during this time, classes and services were cut.

"The reason we say this is the year of recovery is because Proposition 30 has passed and we're not making cuts anymore," Dr. JoAnna Schilling said.

"The last few years, all we've had to do is cut, so this year what we're looking to do is to create clear pathways and educational plans for students so they can know how to reach their goals."

Added Lacy, "we're still far away from where we want to be, but we're making great progress toward our goals with little steps at a time."

Creating clear pathways for students toward their degree was a point addressed during the

convocation, in addition to reducing textbook costs, as the price has risen by 186 percent, and finding alternatives such as e-books or open education programs.

Schilling said, "We want an educational plan that tells you the courses you need to take and makes suggestions for your general education so once a student signs on for a particular plan we can make sure that we schedule the classes and make sure the students actually obtain what they are looking for."

The open education program would allow students to purchase books at a discount, in addition to increased access for the material, as one would be able to access the information through Talonnet.

Business administration professor Robert Livingston said, "The average cost for a textbook that isn't part of the open education program is 205 dollars and the average cost for a textbook that is apart of the program is 19 dollars. The program is being run very responsibly."

The upcoming accreditation also came up as issues from the previous evaluation were said to be addressed and a timeline of events was displayed, showcasing when things were to take place.

Such as a final report being submitted in December, the accreditation committee visiting campus in March and a response from the ACCJC in June.

Construction around campus was mentioned and the new Liberal Arts building is scheduled for completion by the summer of 2014 and the relocation of the Child Development center taking affect Apr. 2014.

"The tax money here in the Cerritos community helps fuel the construction you see here

on campus," Schilling said. "All the construction here is being funded from our last bond, which is measure CC and is finishing up, and our new bond, which is measure G."

She added, "That has actually been easier than funding from the state, which funds classes, and that's where I think it gets confusing because students see all of the buildings going up and we're cutting classes."

"The problem is that we're getting money for one thing, but we can't use it for something else."

"What you see around you is going to make a huge difference and now we need to make sure we have the classes the students need inside of these buildings."

Improvements in the Human Resources department are also being made as vice president Mary Anne Gularte said, "we're looking to better our process and procedures and utilize technology to improve our services."

We're soliciting feedback and input from the entire campus on how we can improve and provide better service for the college."

There were many positives in the convocation, but the financial problems are not going to just go away as Livingston noted.

"I think the question long-term for education is complex and it's going to take some time to work it out. It's a moving target, there are so many things going on, not just here in California, but nationally."

Betancourt believes that one should not be discouraged and move forward.

"This is the first year, in three years, where we're not getting that message, 'get ready, here we go again.' Now we're able to give a sigh and go, 'OK, it feels like we can start rebuilding again.'"

He added, "The school's priority is one priority, student success. Everything here revolves around that."

Editorial  
**Solicitors at Cerritos**

For more on solicitors on campus read this week's editorial.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

Homecoming  
**Homecoming Meeting and Applications Due**

A Homecoming Committee meeting will be held at 11 a.m. in BK 111

Homecoming Applications due on Oct. 2 at 3 p.m.

Club Activities  
**Inter-Club Council**

ICC meeting in room BK 111 at 11 a.m.

HOMECOMING  
**Homecoming Elections**

Homecoming Elections will be held on Oct. 10 from 9 a.m. -2 p.m. and from 5-9 p.m.

ONLINE POLL  
**What do you think of the Homecoming theme?**

A. Great! I love it!  
B. Sounds like fun.  
C. I really don't care.  
D. Was that the only option?  
E. Sounds like a waste of time.

VOTE ON TALONMARKS.COM