

TALON MARKS

CERRITOS COLLEGE

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Breathe easy CC

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Cerritos College students can rest assured that the campus is no longer under accreditation warning status.

According to Dr. Joanna Schilling, vice president of Academic Affairs, “Cerritos addressed all our recommendations successfully and our accreditation was fully reaffirmed on June 30, 2015. We are no longer on warning status and the college will now complete our usual midterm report in Spring 2017 [this is a normal part of the process].”

According to the action letter provided to former President Dr. Linda Lacy, which is available online, the commission finds that Cerritos College has addressed the 2014 recommendations.

Therefore the commission took action to remove the warning and reaffirm accreditation.

The midterm report is to be turned in by March 15, 2017.

Furthermore the document dated April 6, 2015 states, “The institution demonstrates that all instructional programs, regardless of location or means of delivery, address and meet the mission of the institution and uphold its integrity.” (Accreditation Standard II.A.1)

College President/Superintendent Dr. Jose Fierro said, “All the credit goes to Dr. Lacy and her staff, “In April, a team visited the campus and spoke with different constituents to ensure we were in compliance with their instructions. By the time I got here, I was sent the certificate of re-accreditation.”

He added how the campus improved in the warning areas the team issued; one of which was mapping through courses getting student learning outcomes online.

Dr. Fierro said that a team will visit in 2017 and he will do his best to make sure the school is compliant, the campus programs are solid and faculty has the tools they need to teach students.

One of the warnings the accreditation team gave to the campus was that they wanted better working relationship between the president and trustees.

Trustee Zurich Lewis said, “As a newly elected trustee I [was] involved in the accreditation process for eight months. Along with six members of our board we had to follow the recommendations of the state accreditation team.”

Lewis concluded, “After we met with a smaller team our warning status was removed and we were restored full accreditation. I believe [it] is a rigorous, but necessary process that ensures community colleges across California provide the best service to its students.”

First days of the POCC

KARLA ENRIQUEZ
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Meeting Students

Flashing his signature smile, Dr. Fierro drives around in a golf cart greeting students as they trudge in the morning heat to class.

“I’ve been trying to fit all of my meetings and at the same time be available to go out and meet students and meet instructors during the first day, walk around campus to make sure we’re doing okay,” Fierro expressed.

In 80-degree weather, the new president approached students all over campus and engaged in conversation that helped him better understand his community.

“It has been my practice that at least once a week or every other week I walk around campus. When I go to the meetings I usually like to walk around and talk to people,” he said.

As he walked the vibrant grass hill, he approached a freshman-nursing student and notified her that his office was open whenever she needed assistance.

As he talked with automotive, cosmetology, nursing majors, etc., he asked with genuine interest how far along they were into their college career and offered assistance if needed.

Dr. Fierro expressed it is important to him for people to know that he is accessible, so they feel comfortable visiting his office when they need something.

The new president came in during the summer to better understand how the college worked, from policy and procedure to getting to know the people he would be working with.

The president said, “I have to

be quite honest, I was actually looking forward to the first day of school. Having the students at the college really changed the dynamic and [...] the feeling.”

First Day Surprise

“Coming during the summer really helped me to understand what was going to happen the first day, so there would be no big sur-



prises,”

“With a college this size and this many students, there are always going to be surprises, but coming earlier and being prepared, I wasn’t really surprised during the first day with anything,” he concluded. “[I] was up

pretty early looking to make sure we were ready for the first day, which we were, but you know things happen [...],” he expressed.

The first bump in the road for the fall semester kickoff came early in the morning when MyCerritos, an important online tool for students, was down for a couple of hours.

Fierro spent his morning answering e-mails, texts and social

ing hard on finding a speedy solution to the connectivity issue.

Status update: Tech Savvy

To stay connected, weeks prior to the start of fall semester, Dr. Fierro launched a highly active twitter account.

“I’ve been able to engage with a few students [and] faculty, and actually community members, and I hope that grows,” he expressed.

He added, “Last week I had a meeting with Maya Walker, director of College Relations and Public Affairs, and she was explaining to me that I probably need to get an Instagram account because apparently most of our students are on Instagram.”

“We will be launching an Instagram account probably later on this week and there are a few names going around, but apparently the name is very likely to be POCC, kind of like POTUS,” Dr. Fierro said, smiling.

POCC stands for President of Cerritos College, a play on the acronym that originated in the late 1800 to refer to the President of the United States.

Maya Walker said, “Part of the social media strategy for the college was to expand to Instagram because we understood that that’s where the students wanted to get information.”

She added, “He mentioned when he got here that he wanted to be able to engage students more, so it seemed like Instagram would be one of the ways for him to be involved more with students.”

John Paul Drayer, Area 3 Trustee said, “He’s like a breath of fresh air.”

New IDs to debut

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It’s colorful, it’s plastic, it’s new and most importantly, it’s free.

Cerritos College will be releasing the new student IDs on Thursday, Sept. 17.

Dean of Student Services Dr. Gilbert Contreras said, “I’m really excited about the new ID’s.

We’re transitioning over this summer [...] The student senate last year approved the expense, it was a little bit over \$20,000 to switch over to the new company and to get the new hardware installed, new cameras, new printers, the whole new software and it has been a really good addition.”

He added, “The reason I’m so excited about the IDs is because we’ll have IDs at the quality of any institution, like four year institutions, universities, we’ll have IDs that are really powerful and they can do what we need them to do.”

Students can use the new IDs in the library or learning resource center and the school will be able to track a student’s hours in each place respectively.

According to Contreras, it will be helpful for services to have that student data.

Nikki Jones, supervisor of the ID Center, expressed that the new IDs will not come at an additional cost to students.

As for the school, Contreras stated, “No more costs, the startup cost was what was the big expense, but moving forward we just noticed we bought our fall stickers, the new company saved us [more than] \$2,000 because their stickers were a lot more affordable than the previous two vendors [...] so we’re saving money there.”

Although concrete numbers won’t be available until the bills come in, Dr. Contreras expressed that the new IDs will be cost effective.

“These are IDs that are cost effective, they are high-quality, they look good, I’m really excited about it,” he concluded.

Jones said, “We’re trying to get everyone on campus to use it, so we’re making it so that everyone transitions, even the faculty, the staff, everybody.”

According to the dean of Student Services, the college is working hard to make the release date line up with the 60th celebration of Cerritos College.

“We’re excited about Sept. 17, students can come in and get a new ID, they don’t have to, the old ones will still work, but if they want a new ID it will be available to them.

“They’re branded with the College library and I just think that it’s something everyone can be proud of, that their new ID is a standard in the industry,” Contreras said.

A community welcome for Dr. Fierro

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“Bienvenido a Casa.”

Board President Carmen Avalos introduced the new Cerritos College President, Dr. Fierro, at the community welcome reception last Wednesday.

“First of all, the board is very excited about the new possibilities that we have to work with Dr. Fierro, with our students and staff and certainly with the community to continue to move the college forward,” Avalos said.

Among those in attendance were, Goodwill CEO, Janet McCarthy, and representative for California Senator, Tony Mendoza and Ana Perez.

Avalos asked for the community to support

Dr. Fierro in bringing in new ideas that benefit community leaders, students and “more importantly the folks who continue to believe that Cerritos College is truly the stellar college in our area.”

Avalos shared that the board and the campus community “share Dr. Fierro’s enthusiasm for student success,” and support his ideas to make the college an even better institution.

In a moment of light-hearted sincerity, Dr. Fierro shared he still feels awkward when someone calls him “Mr. President.”

“Victor [Villalobos], our student trustee, [...] said ‘Good afternoon Mr. President’ and I shook his hand and I laughed and I said ‘You know, that feels awkward, when you call me Mr. President,’” Fierro said.

He continued, “He laughed and said ‘You better get used to it, Mr. President.’”

Fierro, whose workday started at 5 a.m., made the rounds shaking community member’s hands and engaged in conversation.

Cheryl Thury, Dr. Fierro’s assistant, said, “He has been a wonderful transition from Dr. Lacy.”

Dr. Joanna Schilling, vice president of Academic Affairs, said, “Dr. Fierro is really good with data, so he’s asking us key questions about how we measure student success, what we need to be looking at to help students not only do better, but how do we currently serve students better.”

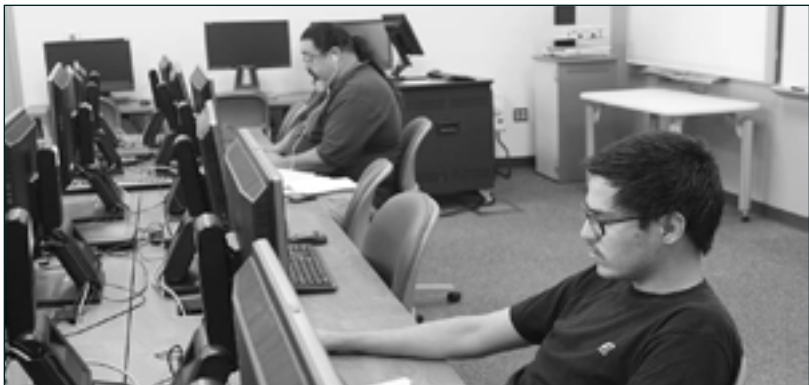
The trustee detailed that the trip helped him in making the decision to support Fierro as the new college president.

With a smile at hand, Fierro continued his 13-hour plus workday surrounded by a welcoming community.

NEWS

FULL STORY ON PAGE 2

New technology better services for students



CAMPUS LIFE

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Crossing the finish line: Dragon boat racers



SPORTS

FULL STORY ON PAGE 6

Women’s soccer team prepares for rematch



Workshops to teach students the Dream Act process

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Submitting a Dream act application is just one step to academic success. Knowing the difference between the Dream act application and the AB 540 form, and why dreamers should submit both, is just one valuable piece of information the Cerritos College financial aid office shares with Dreamers. The financial aid office also has other resources available for students who filled a Dream act application.

Attending one work shop can lead to money in the pocket.

One way the financial aid office reaches out to students is by hosting Dream act workshops.

The workshops provide information on filling out the dream act application, the AB 540 application and the Cal Grant GPA form.

The workshop also informs students of their eligibility for the Board of Governors Fee Waiver B which would qualify them for other programs such as EOPS and the resources they provide.

Some of the students who attended the financial aid office's first Dream Act open house workshop found they were entitled to a refund on the tuition they had paid and will be getting money returned to them soon.

Miranda Hardisty, English education major, is a supporter of the Dream Act, she said, "People should have the opportunity for a better life and education is the way to get it. The dream act is a necessity."

Tay'Lor Trammel, undecided major, agreed, "Nobody should stop you from your chance [to get an education] you should be allowed to go to college. If dreamers are allowed to go to high school why not college?"

Financial Aid specialist Yesenia Ramirez who is overseeing the dream act resources in the financial aid office is focused on providing information to the students.

She sent out an e-mail to 2,127 students who had submitted a Dream Act application or had an AB 540 status with admissions.

Ramirez added, "During the workshop we met with students one on one and checked their financial aid, applied for refunds if they were eligible, and answered any questions they might have had."

According to Ramirez, many

students don't know that they should file both the AB 540 and the Dream Act application. The AB 540 application is for any student who graduated from a California high school regardless of their immigration status.

Ramirez explained that the AB 540 serves two groups of students, those who are immigrants that graduated from a California high school, and California residents that graduated from high school and are attending college in California.

The AB 540 application lowers the tuition fee to what a California resident pays, instead of paying the higher tuition fees an out of state student pays.

The next step for legal students is to fill out a FAFSA form and from there see what financial help is available to them.

For an illegal immigrant student the Dream Act application is submitted instead of the FAFSA.

Ramirez stresses the importance of submitting the Dream Act application before the March 2 deadline.

Even though the application can be submitted at any time, completing it before March 2 allows the financial aid office to submit a Cal Grant GPA application for the student.

The Cal Grant GPA application gives students financial assistance for the cost of books and supplies.

Dreamers may also qualify for the Board of Governors fee waiver program [BOGFW].

The importance of applying for the Board of Governors fee waiver program [BOGFW] is not only financial. Ramirez said, "students should know that qualifying for the [BOGFW] program can also qualify students for Extended Opportunity Program and Services [EOPS] eligibility." EOPS offers students access to book grants, counseling, priority registration, touring universities and among other resources.

More information on how to fill out the applications and the many other resources will come out of the "Dream Application and resources" workshop on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in room S 104 or contact the financial aid office.



Resources for all: Alfred Quesada (far left) and Christian Baez (right), using the computers in the DSPS High Tech Center. The High Tech Center has software designed to cater to different learning styles and disabilities.

New technology, better services

DSPS offers new technology to help students with disabilities overcome their obstacles.

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The high tech center in the DSPS building, offers students with disabilities a wide variety of services such as text-to-speech technology, braille printers and scanners that allow students to scan their textbooks into a digital format and also offers 25 computers fitted with different programs and hardware.

According to Dean of DSPS Lucinda Aborn, the DSPS program serves 1,500 students with different disabilities all with different majors.

DSPS students can come in for many services such as academic advisement, test proctoring, schedule planning and the new high tech center.

She said, "The high tech center evolved to provide instruction for our students to utilize technology that helps them overcome barriers to access information in their coursework,"

Aborn added that the DSPS has been providing help for students with disabilities since

before it was state law.

"[The high tech center] started with technology for certain disabilities, like hearing disabilities for example," she said.

Aborn added that because a lot of technology has gone mainstream and not just used for students with disabilities, it is easier to teach.

The high tech center has a compliment of software and hardware that students can use to have access to printed material and to overcome challenges to learning the material, Aborn added.

Bryant Vu, a worker in the high tech center, explained some of the assistive technology.

"We have something called Kurzweil, which is a scan and read software. So what students can do is bring their textbook and it'll scan it into a digital format and it will read it to you, you can take notes. We also have this program that allows students who aren't able to use keyboards to write their essays by speaking into the computer," he said.

Vu said that not only are the programs and services available to students, but he and his fellow worker Niki Bryant can teach DSPS students to use the programs independently.

The high tech center has been open since last spring, as well as over the summer according to Vu.

Dean Aborn remarked on how some DSPS students come from high school and are not acquainted and how the high tech center can

teach them how to use those services.

"It's something they can use at home and even in the workplace, they can take the technology with them if it's something that really benefits them," she said.

The licenses for the programs can be as little as \$3,000 or upwards to \$12,000, depending on the annual licensing fees, said Aborn.

She added that since the new DSPS building came integrated with more technology, the costs were lower.

A lot of the hardware is also a lot cheaper than it was years ago, so most of the costs came from new software.

The funding comes from district funds, DSPS categorical funds and partly by ASCC which has helped purchase Premiere at Home, which is available not only to DSPS students, but to all students across the campus.

Niki Bryant, who works along with Bryant Vu, said, "It's a quieter environment when compared to the library, these computers help them study and overcome any limitations they have."

Angie Padilla, who is studying to become a preschool teacher, was in the high tech center for the first time and said that she found it easier to work in the quiet of the high tech center.

Bryant added that the high tech center caters to different learning styles with the assistive technology.

ASCC helps students get organized with new fall planners

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As Cerritos College students waltzed from class to class, their attention was called by the voices of student leaders handing out freebies.

The Associated Students of Cerritos College handed out planners for the 2015-2016 academic year to students who had their updated ID sticker on Aug. 17 and Aug. 18 at Falcon Square.

According to Kadie Gurley, ASCC senator, three boxes of approximately 40 planners each total had been distributed on Monday and the

same number were distributed on Tuesday in just an hour and a half.

The new orange ID sticker provided students with a free agenda, while maps were handed out for the new students trying to find classes.

"It's definitely a money saver," Environmental Engineering major Elisabeth Cortez said.

Skyler Browne, Dental Hygiene major said, "I love having the planners, they're really helpful, I had one last year. It's a really nice planner, it really helps with organizing for tests especially when you take multiple classes."

Alan Rodriguez, member of Operation Outreach, explained, "[We're] informing [students] about student government, the jobs, [...] and the new IDs that are coming out in September."

Rodriguez revealed that the new student ID's will be debuting on Sept. 17.

Megan Kim, Commissioner of Public Relations, said, "Right now what I was doing, as people got free student planners, I would

ask 'Hey, do you happen to be interested in student government?' If they were interested I explained what student government is."

She added, "I explained the branches first [...] cabinet is where the action happens, senate is where the politics happen, court is where they check up on cabinet and senate."

After an explanation on how to fill out the forms required and a briefing on the meeting times, Kim walked students over to ASCC President Eduardo De La Rosa or Trent Coates, the new Chief Justice, to learn more about the job.

"So far, a couple of people were interested and I'm kind of excited that I did that," Kim said.

According to Kim about 10 students went through the beginning process.

"When I was talking to them, I was trying to see where their heart was, and pretty much everyone I talked to really do want to make a change."

"This is not high school," she said. "This is college and we are here by choice. No one forces you in college and that is why I think people do care about the students and what is going on [at the college]."

Kim concluded, "I believe there is leadership in every single person."



Preparing the student body: ASCC hand out Cerritos College planners. It aims to help students be organized with life and the classes they are taking, as well as recruiting for student government.

LOST & FOUND

Please contact Cerritos College
Campus Police for lost and found items.
562-860-2451 ext 2325



School Mascot: Franco Falcon promotes the new student IDs. The new IDs will be available in September at no cost to the students.



Players prepare for season: The Cerritos College Women's Soccer team runs drills during practice. The team and coach hope this season will bring them a fifth state title.



KARLA ENRIQUEZ /TM
Dr. Fierro: The new College President receives a warm welcome from the community. He was happy the event was well attended.



Welcome: Dr. Fierro, the new College President, was welcomed by students and staff in the Student Center. Fierro and others spoke to the people in attendance.

Welcoming Fall 2015

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@delmندا94

Cerritos College students were largely active during the first week of school. Photographed here, are some of the events and people that were up and running throughout the first week of the Fall 2015 semester.

Cerritos College sports teams have begun training, the new President has been making rounds, fall semester is in full swing.

Scan to visit our Instagram account. Follow us to catch a glimpse of Cerritos Campus



<http://bit.ly/1Kj1L3B>



Players go airborne: Freshman, Albert Filorio (left) Eduardo Valdivinos (right) going through drills. The Cerritos College Men's team is preparing for the coming season.



Burger and chips, to go: ASCC welcomes students with a free In-n-Out meal. The food truck visited campus twice allowing both day and night students to partake in the event.



Preparing students: ASCC hands out Cerritos College planners. They hope to aid students in organizing their school-work and life.



Paddling: Joel Centeno and the BLIND START dragon boat team going through paddling drills, in preparation for the World Championships. Centeno is a legally blind student of Cerritos College and will be traveling to Australia with the team to represent the United States.



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EDITORIAL



CARLOS MARQUEZ/TM

How much can a hashtag really help

When someone says, “All lives matter,” in response to the “Black Lives Matter” movement, they’re probably thinking, “Oh no! Not just black lives matter all human lives matter! And lions too!”

But what these people don’t seem to realize is that “All Lives Matter” doesn’t unite you to their cause, but only serves to trivialize and water down the real problem.

And that problem, folks, is that police are killing black people across the country like it was going out of style.

See when some wannabe SJW, says “All Lives Matter,” they forget that police aren’t killing all people equally.

The reason why “Black Lives Matter” exists is because black lives are in danger by just walking down the street or driving their car or wearing a hoodie.

But let’s backtrack here. It’s 2015 people! We live in an age where you can get surgery on your face to look like any given celebrity, it’s an age where we carry around a device that would be considered sorcery just 30 years ago and even then we haven’t answered the most important question: Why are we still asking which lives matter?

Hell, people give more of a shit for the lion than they do for some poor black kid that was shot by a cop. At that point we have to stand back and realize that we shouldn’t be asking that question at all. Peoples’ lives shouldn’t be in danger because of the color of their skin. Ever. Under any circumstances.

It is important to bring race into the conversation because we don’t exist in a leveled playing field.

It is hard to specify just how many deaths a year are perpetrated against the black community, or anyone for that matter, at the hands of police because the data is incomplete and that in itself is ridiculous in this day and age.

According to a USA Today article titled “Local police involved in 400 killings per year,” published on Aug. 2014, only four percent of American law enforcement agencies turned over data of police-involved shootings to a database operated by the FBI.

Not only is a program that would detail under what circumstances suspects were killed at the hands of police lacking in funding, but police don’t want to implement such a system because it would damage their image.

With a system that only tracks “justifiable homicides,” also known as the shooting of armed suspects at the hand of police, how do we account for those killed unjustifiably?

In a sense it poses the question: “Who watches the watchmen?”

It is absurd that in 2015, we see military tanks at peaceful memorials in Ferguson, a city which is made up of 67.4 percent black people, who live with rampant corruption and a racist system, but remind me that all lives matter.

It is absurd that in 2015, we see a cop sit on a 14-year-old black girl’s back to subdue her as she screams, while white adults stand and watch, but tell me again how all lives matter.

It is absurd that in 2015, we are seeing cops literally get away with the murder of unarmed black people, but hold

on...I thought all lives mattered?

That clearly isn’t the message being sent out, but it is the one that is often erased when we counter with “All Lives Matter.”

Just what can we do to change?

First, we need to let go of the notion that we’re “color blind.”

Yes, race plays a part and yes, the color of someone’s skin is one of the reasons why they are dead.

We need to get rid of the “angry black female” and “aggressive black man” tropes that often exist in jokes and conversations based on generalizations.

We also need to educate ourselves about systematic racism and how it affects communities. Racism is intrinsically connected with the roots of the United States of America no matter how much we try to bury it, it still exists and investigate what new ways of oppression are being used in this day and age.

Most importantly, we can step back and listen to the demands of the black community and act in solidarity in more than just hashtags, but by actually being there.

In a world where the Sandra Blands, Mike Browns and Trayvon Martins drive to work, walk in their respective neighborhoods and wear hoodies in fear, think twice about your “All Lives Matter” reasoning, because the obvious answer to that is, Of course.

Planned Parenthood going away?

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Abortion. Nothing sends hardcore conservatives into a rage than that single word, well, except for the phrase “gun control.”

Except when the topic is being discussed, inevitably it will lead to Planned Parenthood.

In truth, it was this video that was part of a two year sting by a pro-life group that’s been trying to bring down Planned Parenthood.

Now the video is heavily edited, but the context of it is that Dr. Deborah Nuttall, is talking about the process by which a fetus is removed and its organs salvaged.

The legality of the issue is heavily argued and on a gray legal area.

But that is not the issue. The issue is how people don’t understand that Planned Parenthood is more than just abortions, so instead of following the pro-life bandwagon and demonizing women

who go there not just for other health services, people should do their research and help maintain these facilities.

Don’t deny women the right to low-income women’s care on the basis of one religious group or beliefs, understand that there are a lot of reasons why women go to these places, not just for abortion.

No, what’s really at stake is how much resistance there is to Planned Parenthood. As soon as its mentioned, pro-lifers, who, let’s be honest, don’t give a shit about the women or the unborn fetuses, go into a frothing rage about how it’s murder and the “life starts at conception” phrase starts flying around.

What people don’t understand is that Planned Parenthood isn’t just about abortions, it’s about prenatal care for low-income women, usually women of color, STD testing, plan B pills and contraception.

That’s why Planned Parenthood is so vital.

In fact, according to their services chart, only 3 percent of their services are actually abortion services.

Everyone can be a hero if they try to be

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In a world where heroes grace our movie screens on an almost monthly basis, it is often hard to remember that real heroes, that wear their own uniforms, do exist. Service men and women, doctors, firefighters and police officers are just a few of the everyday people who the world sees as heroes without the need for superpowers.

Of course, any good comic book will tell you that any one of us can be a hero in the right situation, and some people take that to heart.

In 2007, Lenny Robinson, decided that the world needed him to be that hero.

Spending thousands of dollars to make sure every detail was as accurate as possible, Robinson became what many of us only dream of.

He became Batman, complete with a costume (based on the design from the 1989 film), and bat themed Lamborghini.

Robinson would go from hospital to hospital visiting sick children in the state of Maryland.

Handing out coloring books and toys, he would visit and for the briefest of moments let a child believe that superheroes were real and anything was possible.

“You see what’s going on. It has to be moving. Sometimes you’re crying on the inside, but you’re strong on the outside,” Robinson stated in a 2012 interview with CNN. “These are the real superheroes. It’s not me; it’s not you. They’re fighting for their lives every single day.”

Unfortunately, Robinson did not receive the farewell that heroes deserve.

On Sunday Aug. 16, Robinson pulled over on the I-70 freeway to

check engine problems when another vehicle crashed into his car from behind, pushed his own car forward and killing him.

Local police released the news with a heavy heart stating they were saddened by the news. The police were the first to release a video of him in 2012 when he was pulled over for a traffic stop.

Yet others have already arisen to carry on his work not for a chance at fame, but to fulfill a need.

In a country where news reports often show at least one reason to be afraid, heroes give us hope.

People like Robinson are proof that doing good is as simple as helping someone else, at any cost.

We all have the potential to overcome great odds, some of us already have, but help would have been appreciated at some point.

You can be that to someone else who is out facing their demons. Go out and be a hero.



Are you here for your parents or for yourself?

COMPILED BY:
BIANCA SALGADO

PHOTOGRAPHS BY:
BIANCA SALGADO

EUNICE MEDINA
English major

“My parents did not force me to go to college. I have been coming to Cerritos College for two and a half years now. I want to be a teacher and author. Poetry is a passion of mine. I want to transfer to two main universities on my list: USC or UCLA.”



BRANDON RODRIGUEZ
Computer System Information major

“I came to Cerritos in 2010, then I went to UEI College, and I came back for Fall 2015. With my degree in Computer Systems Information I want to work in the IT field of networking. Currently I am undecided where I want to transfer once I get my degree here.”



KIERRA BROWN
Nursing major

“I looked up Cerritos College online one day on my own. I have been here for a week now and I like what this college has to offer. As a registered nurse, I want to work in the pediatrics field because I love kids. I am undecided on where I want to transfer to from Cerritos.”



STEVEN RODRIGUEZ
Political Science major

“My parents said I had to do something, not for them but for myself. I only cared to do the bare minimum, but coming to Cerritos I see now how it can be a struggle being a college student while handling a social life. I want to transfer to Cal State Long Beach.”



KIMMIESHA PERRYMAN
Child Development major

“Originally I wanted to go to Cypress College but my mom wanted me to go to Long Beach City College instead. But Cerritos College is closer to home since I do live near by compared to the other community college campuses.”



Surf the web much?

Video- Some of the Talon Marks editors followed Dr. Fierro during the first week of the fall semester to get to know our new college president. On our week long quest, we found a renewed energy and optimism when it comes to the future of Cerritos College.



Video- Watch the life of Joel Centeno, a legally blind student of Cerritos College, as he goes through his accomplishments and struggles with his world championship qualifying dragon boat race team. Watch as Team BLINDSTART shows off their passion for crossing new finish lines.



Dislike reading?
Scan here for all different types of Multimedia story coverage of Cerritos College including the stories above.

Video- Students, faculty and staff lined up for a free meal provided by ASCC. Watch student and faculty input through live interviews. “We do it again spring semester to kick off the semester to motivate students and to really encourage them to get involved in Cerritos College.” said Gilbert Contreras, dean of Student Services.



Video- Some of the Talon Marks crew try out some secret menu Frappuccinos from Starbucks. This is from the actual Starbucks secret menu that is available to the public. With several different takes on the drinks, it's safe to say that the Talon Marks crew agrees to disagree.



KRISTOPHER CARRASCO/TM
Motivated for Australia: After a vigorous practice with his team, Joel Centeno feels confident in his teams capability of winning the Dragon Boat Racing World Championship.

Crossing the finish line

KRISTOPHER CARRASCO
Campus Life Editor
@902kris

From the difficulties of classes that you simply just hate, to the groggy feeling you get from staying up late studying, school is a huge obstacle. For Joel Centeno, science in rehabilitation major, obstacles are one thing he isn't afraid to overcome, considering he's going to Australia in March of 2016 to represent the United States in the Dragon Boat Racing World Championship.

Dragon Boat Racing is a 20-person team water sport in which paddlers sit side-by-side and use their combination of technique and strength to race against other teams.

What makes the 41-year-old father of three and his team so unique? His whole team is blind or legally blind, including himself.

“I like dragon boat racing. You race from 250 meters to up to 1,000 meters. In the Guts and Glory race, you race 1,000 meters back and forth. When you hit 500 you need to turn and when your turning on a boat, it becomes very difficult and fun. It can get a little bit dangerous because you can actually crash,” Centeno said.

Prior to his journey to Cerritos College, Centeno worked at the Southern California Rehab Services, a state branch in which people with disabilities can get the help they need to be independent, he learned the ropes of the trade and eventually became a manager.

At that time, not only was his vision getting worse, but state budgets were getting cut.

Due to these cuts and lack of a college degree, Centeno was let go.

After being urged to go to school and obtain a degree, he started at Cerritos College through the disabled student program.

The Cerritos College DSPS helps students with any services they may need to accommodate their needs in school such as note taking or different formatted books.

Judi Holmes, Centeno's disability specialist, said. “He [Joel] is delightful! He has such a charismatic personality and we've known each other for a very long time. I used to refer people to him when he worked professionally in the area.”

“He invites all of us whenever it's local for us

to come and see him. He also does the mud runs. I mean, here he is with a visual impairment running through the mud. We're very proud of him,” Holmes added.

The program has been beneficial for Centeno through his journey at Cerritos College.

“The DSPS office? They're the best. Since I've gotten here, they've just been very helpful. They have a passion for what they do as well. They've helped with registration, test taking, the assistant devices for reading were provided. From note taking to projects, they've just been wonderful,” Centeno said.

Centeno is not only a blind aspiring student, but he is also extremely athletic.

When he practiced with the BLINDSTART organization's dragon boat racing team five years ago, he never once thought he would be traveling across the world to compete for a world championship title.

The BLINDSTART of America organization is an organization that Centeno networked with that helps the visually impaired come together through athletic and social events.

The team started out as a local recreational team that would participate in festival races, but after the additions of more coaches and team members, the team has become a year round competitive team as of 2014.

“This year we went to Canada where we got second place. This was unheard of as a first year team,” Centeno said.

“Everyone was crying, tears of joy and white canes were flying in the air ... I can't believe we actually made it to represent the United States in Australia,” Centeno added.

He does not let his disability define him, but instead realizes that with the help of his peers, his blindness is just another obstacle he has overcome.

Through a mutual friend, Centeno met CEO of the BLINDSTART organization, Brian Tom.

Just like the goals of Centeno, Brian Tom shares the same goal in helping the visually impaired with resources that will enable them to lead independent lives through BLINDSTART.

Tom started the organization about seven years ago as a way to give back to the blind community that helped him when he lost his sight.



Since then, BLINDSTART has been going strong and hosts many charitable events and Centeno has participated in.

“Our message is ‘Helping the blind cross finish lines,’” Tom said.

“Joel Centeno, that's a.k.a. Spartan. He's my bench mate ... we met and we shared similar life styles, we just connected and we've crossed many finish lines together. He's really taken it to the maximum level. The confidence from crossing a new finish line trans into a every part of a person's life, we take that confidence in school and work and to family life to keep challenging our selves, my personal philosophy is no excuses,”

Centeno has crossed many finish lines and truly feels that anybody is capable of accomplishing anything, as long as they have the will to do so.

He will be crossing a new finish line this spring as he will be finishing his final semester at Cerritos College.

He will be transferring to California State University Los Angeles to finish his degree and finally give back to the community once again.

His 20-man dragon boat racing team is all blind, but that does not put them at a disadvantage while they're paddling their hearts out.

“We just cross finish lines. We don't need to see them. For us, that's probably an advantage... we don't even worry about the finish line or where it's at, we just keep on going,” Centeno said.

His journey is one he hopes will inspire everyone including his three children.

He participates in athletic races with his kids and looks forward to doing more events in the future.

The daily life of school, his workouts, his dragon boat practices and his family is stressful, but Centeno's focus is never lost.

“If you want to do something, try it out and just do it. If you can't, then find a way. There is nothing that a person cannot do. We might fall, but we'll get up. I fell many times and they told me to stop, but I didn't stop. I'm not going to stop,” Centeno concluded.

For information on any services mentioned in this story, check out the online version which contains the appropriate links at www.Talonmarks.com.

Shakespeare makeover

KRISTOPHER CARRASCO
Campus Life Editor
@902Kris

Auditions for ‘The Tempest,’ directed by Professor F. Reed Brown, got students to channel their inner actor during the first week of school.

The classic show will be taking a new look as Brown has decided to take a different approach with the directional concept and has set the show in a steampunk era.

Auditions and callbacks for the Shakespeare play were held last Wednesday and Thursday. The cast list has since been posted.

The show will premier October 9 at 8 p.m. with more shows on October 10, 15, 16 and 17 at 8 p.m. and the last show on October 18 at 2 p.m. at Burnight Theater.

The auditions process starts off with open sign ups for students.

After which, students are brought in, one by one, where they perform their prepared audition piece for the director and stage manager.

Stage Manager Ericka Danielle Bailey feels it's important to help set up an intimate environment where students don't have to worry about being judged.

Bailey, a theater tech major, has had pervious experience in working on previous Cerritos College theater productions such as ‘All the Timing’ and ‘Waiting for Lefty’ as stage manager.

“I am the glue. Imagine a manager of the store, you need to make sure you keep everyone together and yell at them when they're late,”

She also looks forward to the direction that the play is being taken with its steampunk theme.

“The whole theme is why I wanted to do the show because i

thought it was cool. If we can get it right, it'll look pretty fucking awesome,” Bailey said.

Some students had experience with the audition process, but for other students, it was their first audition.

Although Angel Cabrera, theater arts major, has had previous theater experience through drama classes and his church, this was his first audition.

“I basically have gone through ‘The Tempest’ and it's different types of scenes, and the various portrayals of the characters...Steampunk is a very radical way to bringing this to the school,” Cabrera said.

Cabrera has been casted for the role of Caliban.

For more information on this production including the cast list visit www.cerritos.edu/theater.



GUSTAVO LOPEZ/TM

Ready to act: Angel Cabrera feels prepared for his audition with his past acting experience under his belt. Angel will be playing the role of Caliban.

Women’s track and field secure state championship

SEBASTIAN ECHEVERRY
Editor-in-Chief
@C_bass581141

“One time, it was the end of the track meet and the 4x4s event is left. I was with Taylor Hawkins and my coach, Christopher Richardson, and we were so nervous we didn’t know what place in the 4x4s we needed to win,” sophomore Raiven Ellis recalled her moment of minor doubt at the 2015 spring California State Track and Field Finals May 15 and 16.

The women’s track and field team made its way past Mt. San Antonio College and Riverside College to finish first with 68 points.

“Knowing that we had the best girls to run 4×4 and we were all cheering for them and knew that they were going to give their best,” Ellis said.

The title lifted by the women’s track and field team is the fifth title in Cerritos College school history.

Aside from the overall team effort to secure the title, athletes Nylia Hudspeth, Breanna Curry, Montana Deavila and Shukura Tyler, all recorded their fastest times for the 2015 season.

Ellis said, “It’s the best feeling in the world. Since we didn’t win last year, it pushed me harder to be the best I can to win this year.”

The Falcons had a long season to beat in order to reach the finals, passing all forms of opposition in conference, regionals, south regionals, north regionals and finally a ticket to compete in state and went on to win.

Head Coach Michael Allen said, “It was tough, injuries, let downs, but the group was able to get to the finals, they always come to.”

Now that the work has paid off, it does not end there for the technical staff of the track and field teams.

“Now we start recruiting, we talk to the best high schools in the area, in the prelims,” Allen said.

According to Allen, the team tries to recruit 10 athletes in almost every event including runners and throwers. The staff will help mold players into other events like pole vaulters and long jumpers.

For Ellis, her story of service to a team of inspired individuals won’t stop there, she has received a scholarship to Mid-America Nazarene University in Kansas and plans to be a professional athlete.

She said, “I’ll be working with a fantastic coach. After I get my degree, I hope to become a professional athlete and a soldier for my country.”



MONIQUE NETHINGTON/TM
Men’s Soccer Team Practices: Freshman Goal Keeper Eduardo Valdovinos (right) challenges Freshman Midfielders Albert Filorio’s (left) header shot during practice. They face Rio Hondo Thursday, August 27th at 4 p.m.

New freshman players fuel men’s soccer line-up

MONIQUE NETHINGTON
Staff Writer
@Sniqueeee

New year, new season and a fresh start. That’s what head coach Benny Artiaga thinks about the new season.

After coming off a winning season [taking first in state; second nationally] the team is heading into this season with high hopes and expectations.

Going into the first home game at home against Rio Hondo College, Thursday at 4 p.m.

Cerritos College has an undefeated record against Rio Hondo.

Artiaga said, “The 2015 team has done nothing [in preparation for the match up].”

Most of the players are freshmen with about seven returning players.

“What alumni players and teams have done in the past mean nothing to the current team,” Artiaga added.

It may seem harsh, but he has only the best intentions.

“He’s not yelling at us, he is just pushing us to do better,” returning player Christian Carrillo said.

During the off-season, coaches and players focused on team unity and physical conditioning.

The team took its annual trip to Mammoth Lake during the summer and it was there that the team captain Christian Carrillo

was chosen.

Carrillo, forward and returning sophomore, is looked to as a leader.

“Leadership is nothing new,” Carrillo said about the pressure that comes with being captain.

“It feels good to know the team believes in me, there’s a good connection,” he added.

The first game of any season is important and this one is no exception.

“We’re the team to beat,” goalkeeper Jaime Sanchez said. “We have to match the team’s intensity and drive. If we don’t, we can’t expect to win.”

Even though Sanchez may not be captain, as goalkeeper, he is in a position of leadership.

He sees the whole field from what the other players may not see.

Rather than being aggressive he uses his assertiveness to direct his team.

“Instead of making it a command, I direct the team to what needs to be done,” Sanchez said. “Let it go. Stay confident.”

“Fresh eyes,” were the words of Artiaga used. This is the theme of the upcoming season.

With their aggression, communication, strong coaching staff and pride for Cerritos College there is no reason the athletic department can’t expect a repeat championship at the end of the season.

Women’s soccer team plays rematch of CCCAA against Fresno City Rams

TAYLOR OGATA
Staff Writer
@TOgata87

The Cerritos College women’s soccer team is preparing for a rematch of last year’s California Community College Athletic Association semifinals.

Coming off its third consecutive state championship in 10 years, Cerritos will begin their quest for a fourth straight state title starting with a pre-season match on Thursday against Fresno City College at Las Positas College.

The Falcons defeated the aforementioned Fresno City College in last year’s CCCAA semifinals.

Head coach Ruben Gonzalez said, “This is going to be a great matchup. Against the second-ranked team in the nation and us being number one, we have a lot of challenges.”

“They’re going to come at us hard,” said center back Malia Tilton. “We just barely beat them last year and they are going to be looking for revenge against us.”

While most of the top players from last season are gone, there is one player who is expected to be

among the best for this season, forward Natalie De Leon.

“When it’s number one versus number two and we’re number one, then it’s not going to be easy. Especially since we edged them out last season,” said De Leon, who is entering her first season on the team.

Last season, the Falcons went 24-1, including 13-1 in conference play, during the regular season before going undefeated in the five playoff games. Their only defeat came to East Los Angeles as they fell short losing 1-0 at an away game .

Overall, Cerritos averaged 5.5 goals per game with a .262 shooting percentage and goals against average of 0.24 according to cerritosfalcons.com.

The team travels outside of California every year with the next stop being Richland College in Texas this September.

Last year, Cerritos visited two different colleges in Illinois for two different games, both of which were victories, including a 16-0 rout of Illinois’ College of Lake County.

Cerritos look to continue their long 11 win-streak at home from last year and continue one this year.



TAYLOR OGATA/TM
Women’s Soccer Team Practice: The team scrimmages at the end of practice on Tuesday August 18. Here, a play off a throw-in is being made.

Women’s Statistics 2014-2015 Season		
Games Played: 25	Total shots: 522	Assists: 118
Record: 24-1 (.960)	Shots on goal: 353	Yellow cards: 7
Streak: Won 18	Total goals: 137	Red cards: 0
Conference Record: 13-1 (.929)	Shutouts: 19	Largest margin of victory: 16-0

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM WWW.CERRITOSFALCONS.COM

Men and Women Cross Country

Men and Women start off the season Saturday Sep. 5 vs. Mark Convert Open at Carbon Canyon Park (Brea) at 9:00 A.M.

Women's Water Polo

Start the season off Sep.10 with a tournament at American River College

Men’s Water Polo

On Sep.5 the team will be traveling to Annapolis (MD) playing Gannon (PA) University and Lindenwood (MO) University

Men’s Soccer

Kick off the their season Thursday at home vs. Rio Hondo at 4:00 P.M.
On Saturday they play at Oxnard at 5 P.M.

Women's Soccer

Kick off their season Thursday against Fresno city 7:30 P.M. at Las Positas
On Saturday they play against Las Positas at 11 A.M. at Las Positas

Football

Start their season away at Saddleback on Sep.5 at 6:00 P.M. Last season Cerritos went 7-4 in season

Wrestling

Start off the season Sep.12 at Bakersfield duals at 9:00 A.M.

Volleyball

This Friday will be holding an exhibition at 2 P.M. at Cerritos to help prepare the team for the season