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BRIANA HICKS/TM

Every vote counts: Karen Magana, psychology major, participated in electing ASCC Senate members for the 2016-17 term. Poll stations were open for two days for students to elect new student senate officials.

Cerritos reviews the year's highlights

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Members of the Cerritos College faculty and staff greeted each other warmly at the 2016-17 Convocation in the Burnight Theater on Thursday.

President Jose Fierro thanked and commended faculty and staff on collective efforts on a successful previous and current academic year.

Over 34 new full-time and 24 newly tenured faculty members were introduced.

Fierro addressed the new faculty and staff by saying, "[with] the level of diversity that we currently have [on] our campus and our new faculty, we should use diversity as a strength, something that will make us better and stronger as we move into the future."

Convocation then switched gears as the 2015-16 accomplishments and highlights were announced.

One of the highlights was the largest graduating class in campus history with 2,600 degrees and certificates awarded, while the Cerritos Complete program provided 600 scholarships to students.

Cerritos College was honored by the city of Norwalk for student participation in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. The college also received \$1.4 million in grants.

These accomplishments were only a mere scratch in the surface in regard to campus achievements.

Vice President of Student Services Stephen Johnson announced student achievements such as 24 Cerritos College culinary arts students who helped prepare meals for the Golden Globe Awards for the second year in a row.

Two former Falcon athletes, Ameer Webb and Whitney Ashley, competed in the 2016 Rio Olympics, and WPMD's Falcon Spotlight was named America's best student public affairs radio program by the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System.

Faculty Senate President Michelle Lewellen introduced keynote speaker Paula Brown.

Brown, a five year faculty member at LA Harbor College, and the coordinator for the Community College Success Network, was responsible for leading the way to successful understanding and knowledge of varying cultures amongst faculty and students.

Brown said, "I will be working along with the Center for Teaching Excellence [...] and developing a community of practice which will involve many of you [faculty]."

She continued, "The training [...] change[s] attitudes, add[s] to the knowledge of others, and strengthen[s] communication skills. The training is comprised of four modules:

"The first module is meanings of culture and race. The second [module] is exploring mindsets in learning. The third module is exploring the learning barriers such as bias, aggressive and stereotype threat. The fourth module is social capital and learning."

The 2016-17 convocation ended with a newly established initiative, new faculty, and another school year.

Students choose ASCC senators

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With ASCC looking to fill seats for senate for this academic year, the two-day voting process came and went.

The senate hopefuls quietly campaigned inside classrooms with 21 sophomores and nine freshmen submitting their names and statements for the ballots.

Sophomore Justin Illescas earned 88 votes, giving him the most votes out of all the students running for senate.

In his statement, he expressed that not only has he previously served on student government in high school, but also served on senate at Cerritos for the 2015-16 term.

He stated, "I believe I have the devotion that it takes to really care about the students' wellness and resources at Cerritos College."

Leila Aboukhalil, chemistry major, admitted that it was her first time voting.

"I think it would be good to participate and [help choose someone who will] advance the college [...] I think the one I voted for will [...] do very useful things," she said.

Sophomore Ryan Kang had one vote less than Illescas, making his total in votes 87. Kang's ballot statement differed from Illescas'. On his ballot, he advocated for student rights and talked about how he's made a difference on cam-

pus by helping preserve the environment through the Go Green Club, and co-founding Student Union Club.

With 83 total votes, sophomore Victor Villalobos was the third student with the most votes. On his ballot statement, he used his previous experience serving on senate and serving as student trustee on the board.

He stated, "Bringing this experience into the senate will allow me once again to contribute to the campus and at the same time lend a helping hand to the new senators of Cerritos College."

Sophomore Joseph Fierro brought in 81 votes. Fierro sat on senate for the 2015-16 term. He used his statement to inform voters of his previous club position and his previous time served on senate.

Voter Zeinab Aboukhalil, civil engineering major, said, "[I voted to] also be a part of enhancing the college and making it better. I've been here for like three years and I haven't seen any change.

She also said, "[...] we need people to make a change for the college to make it better than all [the] other colleges.

"[I think it is] absolutely [important for others to vote] because when you vote, [and] if you participate [...] you feel [like] you're a part of the college. You're part of making it better.



BRIANA HICKS/TM

Making a difference: Voters Leila and Zeinab Aboukhalil, chemistry and civil engineering majors, said that they are trying to make a difference by participating in voting. Students who ran for ASCC Senate focused heavily on campaigning inside the classrooms this semester.

Shortage of student IDs coming to an end

The Student ID Center ran out of student identification cards and will receive more soon.

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The dilemma of the sparseness of identification cards on the Cerritos College campus may soon be a thing of the past.

According to Interim Dean of Student Services Frances Gusman thousands of ID cards will be on campus as soon as Sept. 26.

"We have made arrangements with the company. We are having 3,000 cards expressed to us and they will be here Monday at 10 [a.m.]," she said.

There are many perks and rewards to having an ID card on the Cerritos College campus and off the campus.

Some of the perks include:

- Discounted Movie Tickets

- Free In-N-Out (when truck is on campus)
- Checking out library supplies
- Printing/Copying
- Setting up counseling appointments
- Financial Aid
- Paying a discounted price at school games

It is only Gusman's second month on the job and she has already come face to face with an impractical issue at her new school.

"The new job hasn't been so much an adjustment, what has been more of an adjustment is [the] process.

"How things function internally, the process[es] that are used here are different than the campus I came from," she acknowledged.

Previously, Gusman worked at College of the Sequoias.

ASCC President Saul Lopez was taken

aback at learning of the school's current trouble.

"From my knowledge, the IDs ran out, that's the bottom line. I talked to [Vice President of Student Services] Stephen Johnson [...] and he's actually the one who told me about it," he said.

Lopez also acknowledged the severe urgency for the school to quickly ratify the situation.

"There's always a sense of urgency when it comes to student services not being available because we are all students and we pay student service fees, so there should be a sense of urgency," he admitted.

On the other hand, Lopez found a positive in the short-lived obstacle.

"I asked [Johnson] 'isn't that a good thing?' Because before we ran into a problem where people weren't getting their IDs,"

"It's a mixed bag. It could mean people are getting their IDs or someone dropped the ball," Lopez acknowledged.

People were left asking the question of "how can the school run out of ID cards?"

Computer science major Danniell

Monroy said a little over two weeks ago, he lost his ID card and has had nothing but problems since in trying to claim a new one.

He recalled, "The day I lost it was really frustrating. I looked in my wallet and it wasn't there and I really needed to print something. So I had to get a print card and I lost like 15 cents.

"So the next day I went to the Student Center to ask for a new one, I went there and [was told] I had to pay \$5 for it. Then I was told I had to go here and go there [...]"

"That was two weeks ago and to this day I haven't been able to get my ID."

The Student ID Center employees refused to comment regarding why the center had run out of IDs. While it is still unclear who is at fault for the lack of ID cards or if anyone is at fault, the fact still remains that the problem won't be an issue for too much longer.

"It's a mixed bag. It could mean people are getting their IDs or someone dropped the ball."
— SAUL LOPEZ
ASCC President