

**Berger, Sheri L**

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**From:** Clay, Doreen J  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2019 12:38 PM  
**To:** Clay, Doreen J  
**Subject:** Brahma Beat Newsletter - Issue 36

# BRAHMA BEAT

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Pierce College Colleagues,

Two weeks ago, I shared with you the need for us to be NIMBLE, OPPORTUNISTIC, and ENTREPRENEURIAL as an institution moving forward in order to respond effectively to a "new normal" as it relates to meeting the needs of a new generation of students coming to our college. This need is also of particular importance for us as we work to financially balance a long-standing structural deficit in the midst of uncertainties with the implementation of the state's new Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF).

In order to immediately address our fiscal challenges, and do so in a manner which honors the core values of transparency, collegiality, and respect, I have formed a campus-wide Presidential Task Force to look into our current fiscal situation and I have charged the task force with coming up with recommendations of specific actions that will, first, allow for the campus to end this current fiscal year without a negative balance and, secondly, address the inherent structural deficit in our campus operating budget so that future fiscal year budgets will no longer set us up for similar challenges.

Yes, the entire campus and the Presidential Task Force in particular will need to look at ways we can save and trim our current spending, but I have also challenged the members of the task force to consider ways that we as a campus can better utilize and align all of the resources we currently have available to us. Additionally, I have asked them to take a look at how we can begin to generate additional revenue while continuing to ensure that we serve the best interests of our students and the community that we serve.

The financial situation we find ourselves in is serious and it will require us to come together as a campus in ways that we may not have necessarily had to in the past, but I am assured and confident that by allowing ourselves to creatively and boldly look at ways that we can be more nimble, opportunistic, and entrepreneurial as an institution, we will find a way that will allow us to both adequately address this current financial situation AND we will also be able to do so in a way that will strategically position the college to capitalize on emerging opportunities and future growth to ensure the long-term success of Pierce College.

GO BRAHMAS!

Alexis

## VOICES

# Accreditation

March 2016



## COLLEGE MIDTERM REPORT ON SCHEDULE

Our College Accreditation Midterm Report, due to the Accrediting Commission (ACCJC) in March of 2020, is in the final stages. This report addresses the self-identified areas for improvement, such as technology, professional development, and outcomes, and it responds to the Recommendations for Improvement given to us by the (ACCJC). This Midterm Report developed out of the hard work and dedication from members of our campus community, and we appreciate all those who helped make the Midterm Report a reflection of the good work done at Pierce College.

Yvonne Cooper Grigg, Professor of English and Faculty Accreditation Coordinator  
Sheri Berger, Vice President of Academic Affairs

## SOUNDING OUT



Staff leader Kimberly Castillo takes a moment at the opening of the Pierce Dream Resource Center, as (from left) LACCD Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez, Board of Trustees 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Gabriel Buelna and Pierce College President Alexis S. Montevirgen look to the future.

## DREAM RESOURCE CENTER DEBUTS AT L.A. PIERCE COLLEGE

Thursday was an historic day as L.A. Pierce College celebrated the opening of its Dream Resource Center to welcome and serve undocumented students. Key speakers at the ceremony were our new president, Dr. Alexis Montevirgen, followed by the LACCD Chancellor, Dr. Francisco Rodriguez, Board of Trustees 2nd Vice President, Dr. Gabriel Buelna, and Dream Resource Center Lead Kimberly Castillo.

Alluding to the current tensions and hostility in the political discourse on immigration and undocumented status at the national level in his welcome, President Montevirgen set the stage for the significance of the center's opening with, "As I stated back on the morning of Opening Day, Pierce College must be an example and strive to be a shining beacon to show that we can and must be better as a nation.

"Today's formal opening of the Dream Resource Center is one example of how we are leading the way in that very effort. It is for me, yet another reason why I am #PIERCECOLLEGEPROUD!"

The new center is a private space located next to the ASO 5100 on the first floor of the Library Learning Crossroads building, easily accessed from the courtyard. It will be a safe haven for Dreamers to gather, study, use computers, and receive assistance in many ways – including with their CA Dream Act Application – to help them pursue their goals at L.A. Pierce College and in this country.

Castillo said, "As the lead of the DRC, I am honored to be in this role where I can empower and support our undocumented student population. I am so excited to have a dedicated space where our students can feel comfortable to ask their questions, share their concerns, gain information and feel heard."

Other resources available to Dreamers are one-on-one meetings, AB 540 residency support, educational workshops, peer mentoring, a student support group called the I.D.E.A.S. club, scholarship information, local immigration legal services and further opportunities to help them succeed. If you would like more information, contact Kimberly Castillo, instructor special assignment, at [castilkd@laccd.edu](mailto:castilkd@laccd.edu) or (818) 712-2692. Dreamers can also visit the website at [www.piercecollege.edu/students/drc/](http://www.piercecollege.edu/students/drc/) or email [LAPC-Dreamers@laccd.edu](mailto:LAPC-Dreamers@laccd.edu).



## WEATHER STATION TO CELEBRATE LANDMARK 70 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Wednesday, October 16

9:30–11 a.m.

Pierce College Weather Station

34° 10' 55.12" North Latitude

118° 34' 28.11" West Longitude

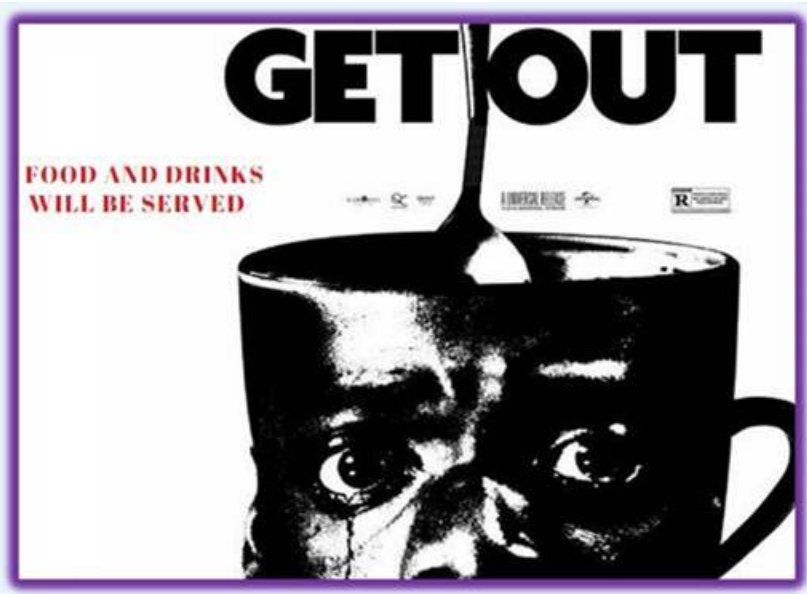
Park in Lot 1

Everyone is invited

Contact: Professor Jason Finley, [finelyjp@piercollege.edu](mailto:finelyjp@piercollege.edu)

The Pierce College Weather Station is one of the oldest and most respected weather stations in California, and one of the few that has been running continuously on one site. At the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, we will introduce the station and listen to three meteorologists from the National Weather Service. We will showcase Pierce's students and provide a station tour, which will include old, manual equipment along with the latest automated instruments. Refreshments provided. Directions: from the campus entrance off Winnetka at Calvert, turn right at first stop sign and park in Lot 1; walk across Brahma Drive to the south and follow signs.

## THIS WEEK'S VIBE



### FILM CLUB PRESENTS "GET OUT"

Film followed by Q&A Panel Discussion

Wed., Oct. 2

1-4 p.m.

Great Hall

Free and everyone is invited

Contact: Ken Windrum, Cinema Professor and Film Club Advisor at [windruk@piercollege.edu](mailto:windruk@piercollege.edu)

"Get Out" will be the first Film Club screening in their "Modern Faces of Horror" series. The after-film panel features Professors Jeff Favre and James McKeever along with enthusiastic members of Pierce's Film Club.

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### MEET YOUR MAJOR FAIR

Thursday, Oct. 3 – Two-Part Event

Meet with Pierce Departments

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Great Hall

NEW: Explore Careers with Roadtrip Nation RV

12 p.m.-4 p.m.

Green RV on the Mall

Everyone is invited

Contact: Wendi Meckler, [mecklewt@piercecollege.edu](mailto:mecklewt@piercecollege.edu)

This year brings a mobile career exploration RV to the Mall. From 12-4 p.m., the green RV from Roadtrip Nation will be camping out to share how their new website can help students explore college majors and careers based on their interests through watching short videos on dynamic professionals. Students can also refer to written information about careers and college majors. In the Great Hall, students will be able to go to one place to ask professors from all our departments questions about majors and careers.



## COLLEGE FAIR EXTRAORDINAIRE

Sat., Oct. 5

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Pierce College Campus

Event for High School Students of Local District NW LAUSD

Contact: Sergio Gonzales, [gonzalsa3@piercecollege.edu](mailto:gonzalsa3@piercecollege.edu)

Thousands of local high school students will descend on Pierce College, as we, in partnership with Local District Northwest LAUSD, invite them to College Fair Extraordinaire. On Saturday they can meet with representatives from more than 100 colleges and universities from across the country right here at Pierce. Workshops about money for college, UC/CSU applications and more start at 9:30 a.m. Lunch is provided to the high school students.

### STAY TUNED

**THE BUSINESS MAJOR**  
Thursday, October 10th  
12:45PM - 2:00PM, The Great Hall  
Over 5000 students at Pierce declare business or related subjects as their major. Areas of emphases include marketing, management, accounting, finance, insurance, supervision and international business. Martin Karamian, department chair, is kicking off #PierceBusinessMonth2019 to talk about how to transform your classes into a career. What program is right for you: An AA? An AST? A certificate? A Program Completion Award?

**IS ECONOMICS THE MONEY MAJOR?**  
Wednesday, October 16th  
12:45PM - 2:00PM, The Great Hall  
Economics is MORE than Money! It is one of the most popular majors at top American universities. Kaycea Campbell, department chair, will tell you what it's all about. Many students wonder if Economics is worth the time/energy. Attend this workshop to see if it's a good fit for you. Learn what to expect in an Economics Major and the benefits of the AA-T. Understand career opportunities available as you explore this major and hear from alums talking about their experiences in the world of work.

**THE BUSINESS COLLEGE FAIR**  
Wednesday, October 23rd  
12:30PM - 2:30PM, The Great Hall  
Thinking about majoring in business or related field? This college fair is tailored just for you! Representatives from the business departments of transfer institutions such as CSUN, UCLA, Pepperdine, California Lutheran, Woodbury, Azusa Pacific and others will provide information and answer your questions. Expand and explore your options! Find the university that meets your needs!

**PROFESSIONALS' PANEL AND Q&A**  
Wednesday, October 30th  
1:00PM - 3:00PM, The Great Hall  
Want to know what it's REALLY like to walk in the shoes of a business professional? Meet insiders from Disney, Universal Studios Hollywood, LinkedIn, RSM US, Robert Half, Wells Fargo, Re/Max Gold Coast and OnStride IT Services as they share their roles/responsibilities and how to land jobs like theirs. Moderated by one of our own faculty, you will find out about their educational and professional pathway as well as the challenges and perks of their positions. Q&A to follow!

### #PIERCEBUSINESSMONTH2019 PRESENTS FOUR EVENTS

October is declared Pierce Business Month. Business, Economics, Career and Counseling Departments have teamed up to invite interested students to four different information sessions: Oct. 10, 16, 23 and 30, plus free pizza. For details Contact Norine Fine at [finend@piercecollege.edu](mailto:finend@piercecollege.edu).



## LAPC THEATRE OPENS SEASON WITH SLASHER/COMEDY "HOOKMAN"

Oct. 18-27

Friday & Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m.

Dow Arena Theatre

Ticket Fees: \$15 for students, \$18 for seniors; \$23 general admission

Contact and Purchase Tickets: Michael Sande, 818-719-6488, [sandemw@piercecollege.edu](mailto:sandemw@piercecollege.edu) or purchase online 24/7 at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4347047](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4347047). Group rates for 10 or more.

Tickets are now on sale for the play opening the LAPC Theatre season, which offers something a little different – a slasher/comedy set amongst college freshmen called "Hookman," by Lauren Yee, directed by LAPC's Shaheen Vaaz.

"I think this show has the potential to be a big hit with the students on campus," said Michael Sande, Managing Director of LAPC Theatre. "Not only is it in the horror genre at Halloween time, it also focuses on college students who are dealing with their everyday lives all while having the possibility of a murderer in their midst."

Visit LAPC Theatre's facebook page for the full description, cast and crew at <https://www.facebook.com/LAPCTheatre/>.

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### Dates to Save:

#PierceBusinessMonth2019 begins Oct. 10

Undocumented Student Action Week, Oct. 14-18

LAPC Theatre's Play, "Hookman," Oct. 18-27, 2019, Dow Arena Theatre

Weather Station Celebrates 70-Year Anniversary, Wed., Oct. 16, 9:30-11 a.m., Weather Station site

Halloween Faculty Breakfast for Transfer Day and College Fair, Thurs., Oct. 31, 9-10 a.m. Great Hall

Transfer Day and College Fair, Thurs., Oct. 31, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on the Mall

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### *Submission Guidelines:*

## HAVE AN HIGHLIGHT IN

TO

Please submit Pierce College event information to editor Doreen Clay by email at [claydj@piercollege.edu](mailto:claydj@piercollege.edu) in advance:

### EVENTS

- \*Name of Event
- \*Date, Time and Location of Event
- \*Who is invited
- \*Short Description of Event
- \*Contact Info – name, title, email and phone number
- \*Sponsor
- \*Flyer, Graphic **OR** Photo
- \*Links, cost, parking, logo

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- \*Please send 4-to-7 sentences about this Pierce College-related achievement
- \*Photo with caption information (names and titles)
- \*Your name and title

*Items will be included as time and space allow*

**Alexis S. Montevirgen, Ed.D.**

**College President**

[montevas@piercollege.edu](mailto:montevas@piercollege.edu)

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BRAHMA BEAT -- A PUBLICATION OF THE L.A. PIERCE COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE – EDITOR DOREEN CLAY, [CLAYDJ@PIERCECOLLEGE.EDU](mailto:CLAYDJ@PIERCECOLLEGE.EDU)