



The Classified Voice

May 2015

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This is the second issue of *The Classified Voice*, the official newsletter of the Merritt College Classified Senate (MCCS). As the 2014-2015 academic year draws to a close, we would like to share with you some of the activities and accomplishments of the Classified Staff. Thank you to all who stepped up this year and demonstrated that the Classified lead by example!

Evaluation of MCCS Goals 2014-15

At its April 21st meeting, the MCCS evaluated its progress in achieving the goals established for the 2014-2015 academic year:

1. *Advocate and increase classified staff participation in all college and district governance groups.*

This goal has been accomplished. Currently, Merritt classified staff serve on and regularly attend all of the college and district governance committees in which they are eligible to participate.

2. *Increase classified staff participation in attending the Classified Leadership Institute.*

This goal has been accomplished. Eight classified senators have been approved with full professional development funding to attend the 2015 Classified Leadership Institute (CLI). In 2013, when Merritt was last represented at the CLI conference, only five classified staff could attend. MCCS thanks President Ambriz-Galaviz for locating discretionary funding to support MCCS's attendance at the 2013 conference.

3. *Develop Moodle shell of a classified staff knowledge data base.*

This goal has only been minimally addressed because of uncertainty over the most appropriate content and platform for such a resource.

4. *Increase fundraising efforts to support professional development activities for classified staff.*

This goal has been accomplished. Although the MCCS did not conduct a fall semester fundraiser (due to various members' extensive commitment to the completion of Merritt's accreditation self-study report), fundraising efforts kicked into full gear this spring semester. A very successful Valentine's Day fundraiser was held in early February. This fundraiser is being followed up with one more in May.

MCCS Assessment

The MCCS will conduct the first ever assessment of its own organizational effectiveness in May with a brief questionnaire distributed to all Merritt Classified Staff. The purpose of this assessment is to gauge how well the MCCS is representing the interests of and meeting the needs of the Classified Staff through the shared governance process. The assessment results will be shared with the appropriate constituencies and used to guide the development of goals for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Exercise, Nutrition, & Ergonomics Workshop

Over the spring break, 35 classified staff members gathered for a nutritious lunch and a relaxing afternoon of informative presentations on a variety of health-related topics. The Exercise, Nutrition, & Ergonomics Workshop on April 1 was sponsored by your very own MCCS, the Professional Development Committee, and the Office of Risk Management. The workshop allowed staff to step away from the confines of their desks and office spaces to stretch their minds and body, figuratively as well as literally. After enjoying a wholesome lunch with colleagues, participants were led through a stimulating session of "desk yoga" by Coach Brock Drazen. Nutrition instructor Heather Casale dispelled common myths about dieting and provided tips for developing healthy meal plans. Finally, Lindy West, an ergonomic consultant, demonstrated the dos and don'ts of workstation arrangement and posture. Throughout the afternoon, staff were also treated to 10-minute chair or table massages by licensed massage therapists, Michael Concepcion and Melody Saechao.



Workshop evaluations submitted by the participants attested to the popularity of the activities, with many requesting additional events on employee health and wellness. Accordingly, the MCCS is planning a follow-up workshop on Thursday, June 25. Mark your calendars and come join your fellow classified in getting fit!

MCCS Nominations and Election

The annual MCCS election will commence on Monday, May 4, with a four-week nomination period. The seats of the following Senators are up for election: Doris Hankins, Waaduda Karim, Molly Sealund, Nghiem Thai, and Charlotte Victorian. Nominations end the last week of May. Ballots will be distributed during the first week of June. Newly-elected senators will serve a two-year term (2015-2017) and are expected to attend the final MCCS meeting of the academic year on June 16. Consider nominating yourself or a colleague. Keep an eye out for an election ballot in your e-mail inbox in June.



Classified Leadership Institute 2015

Each year, the California Community Colleges Classified Senate (4CS) sponsors a Classified Leadership Institute (CLI) to promote classified engagement in participatory governance and to support classified staff who wish to develop their leadership skills. The MCCS will be well represented at CLI 2015 in Tahoe City, June 4-6, when it will be presented with the 4CS Model Senate Award. The following Senators have received administrative approval and full funding to attend: Tim Brice, Doris Hankins, Stefanie Harding, Waaduda Karim, Ron Perez, Molly Sealund, Nghiem Thai, and Denise Woodward.

Annual Achievement Awards Celebration

Please join the MCCS in congratulating your classified colleagues who were acknowledged at Merritt's 6th Annual Achievement Awards Celebration for their exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to service:

- President's Excellence Award - Stefanie Harding
- Classified Senate Award - Denise Woodward
- Institutional Achievement Award - Lorna Pascual, Phasasha Pharr, Kinga Sidzinka, Isidoro Rivas,
- Leadership Award - Ron Perez



Classified Spotlight: Judy Bryson



When did you begin your career here at Merritt College?
I began my career at Merritt College in 2000.

What is your current position at Merritt College?
My current position is Executive Assistant to the President.

What motivated you to decide on choosing a career here at Merritt?
I previously worked in the Chancellor's Office at the District. In 2000, I transferred to Merritt College which has truly been a blessing.

How long have you been employed at Merritt College and with the Peralta Community College District?

I have been employed at Merritt College for 15 years and have been with the Peralta Community College District for 37 years.

Describe one thing about yourself that no one knows about?

Not everyone knows that I am an avid bowler. I love to bowl and bowl in a league on Friday nights.

Are you native to the Bay Area? If not, where is your place of birth?

I was born and raised in Oakland, California, and graduated from Merritt College when it was located on Grove Street.

Merritt College is known for its diverse population. Can you share with us your ethnicity?

I am African-American.

Who has helped you with understanding how things work at Merritt College?

When I came to Merritt College in 2000, Jane Fong and Sadie Bradley were very instrumental in my learning how things work at Merritt College.

Mission

The Merritt College Classified Senate, as empowered by the Merritt College Classified Staff, shall enhance and utilize the education, training, and knowledge of its members in the shared governance process for the benefit of the Merritt College Classified Staff.