



Marlene Hurd, Senator, Associated Students of Merritt College and President, Tobacco Less Club

Marlene Hurd is a student advocate with the Community Health Education Institute Tobacco Control Program funded by California Department of Public Health and Alameda County Tobacco Control. Marlene is the H R Director for Healthy Communities Inc. She is studying Real Estate at Merritt College and will receive her degree in 2016. She currently serves as Vice Chair of the Oakland Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. Marlene is a 2015 -2016 Fellow with UCSF Loop, and a 2015 graduate Fellow with the Women's Foundation of California Women's Policy Institute. In 2015, Marlene received the Outstanding Contribution Award from the Alameda County Tobacco Control Coalition. Hurd rose to elected service as Peralta District wide Student Trustee, serving two terms. She graduated from Laney College with degrees in Labor Studies, Social Science and Language Arts. Marlene earned her BA from Mills College and studied at U.C. Berkeley Goldman's School of Public Policy where she will complete her Master's Degree. Marlene received commendations from California Senators, Assemblymembers, State Chancellors, U. S Congress persons, Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the City of Oakland.



Camillo Cipolla ,Vice President Tobacco-Less Club Berkeley City College

Film Major, transfer to 4-year. Camillo's contributed works to the Tobacco Less Club include web development/ upkeep, signage reports for Merritt and Laney, Menthol/E-cigs training, city hall testimonies, Alameda County Tobacco Coalition meetings, community outreach. Cipolla has received Assembly Recognition from Assembly Tony Thurmond for his work in tobacco prevention.

Pauline Bondonno, Project Director of the California Tobacco Prevention Program Health Disparities Grant at Peralta Colleges, works for the nonprofit Community Health Education Institute. She has headed grants since 2007 at Peralta Colleges through Alameda County Tobacco Prevention Coalition to reduce tobacco use. She worked at Diablo Valley College to virtually eliminate tobacco on the 28,000-student body campus and educate college students about tobacco prevention. She worked for the Berkeley Unified School District as tobacco prevention program coordinator, for the City of Berkeley in tobacco prevention, and carried out two Alameda County tobacco prevention grants with youth art and tobacco prevention. She is certified by the American Lung Association to teach tobacco cessation and is on the Berkeley Tobacco Prevention Coalition. She has conducted statewide public information campaigns for California Department of Health on preventive health measures including smoking,

nutrition and occupational health. These campaigns included weekly television appearance, producing radio programs, news articles and moderating educational meetings.



Merritt College student, Stephanie Bunn-Roberts is a mother of two boys ages one and three and am married. My family and I relocated to Oakland from Antelope, CA for the purpose of school in October 2014. With all the budget cuts in the education system Sacramento county community colleges limited what classes for certain major's would be offered. Unfortunately, all the arts majors were affected by this because Sacramento feels that this particular group of majors is less important & will result in less success than others. It affected us like this; for example instead of a class being available to take every semester it would now only be available to take once a year. My husband inky needed two classes to graduate but now the last two classes he needed wouldn't be available to take for an entire year now. For this reason my husband's education plan was interrupted.

There were other issues going on in our lives that we could only conclude were happening because it was time for transition & we could no longer fight it. Upon moving to Oakland I gave birth to our one year old son three days after arriving here. At that time my plan was to go back to work while my husband continued on with his schooling while working part time. Unfortunately there were some unplanned events that took place and I was not able to go back to work right away. Then when I did go back to work it was a very complicated schedule. It was at that time I had to face what I had been avoiding for far too long; going back to school.

I ultimately did some research and enrolled here at Merritt with the idea of going into the RN program starting January 2015. January 2016 made it a year for me back in college for real this time. December of last year I still needed to work to balance our household income & my job at the hospital took an extreme turn for the worst. Someone here at Merritt thought I would be a great asset for the Merritt Cal-works office as a student worker through work study. I had since gone back to work at St. Francis Memorial Hospital in the city but there continued to be several challenges in doing so. So I accepted the position in the Cal-works office as a student worker and began working December 3rd 2015.

It was just two weeks ago that I had to deal with myself on somethings and finally decided to do what I should have long ago; change my major. My new major is Social/Behavioral Science. During my hectic, excelled journey of transition I met Ms. Hurd. She gave me alot of information about what she did and the whole tobacco topic drew me in instantly. I am a strong willed individual that believes in justice for all truly. I don't feel we can have true justice if we are not informed.

Tobacco has been made to seem as a minimal to no problem at all topic when discussed or compared next to street drugs, alcohol, gang violence, racism, also racial killings by the police or others & this list

can go on. But in fact tobacco is a real modern day problem and affects many people from the unborn to the elderly.

For this reason I chose to become a tobacco advocate to help inform & educate the world on the facts regarding tobacco that we have minimized or placed in a category less important because we are not directly affected. When the reality is just the opposite. We just don't know it yet.