



# The Classified Voice

Fall 2015

Vol. 1 No. 3

Welcome to the Fall 2015 edition of The Classified Voice, the official newsletter of the Merritt College Classified Senate (MCCS). As classes get under way, we would like to share with you some of our accomplishments from the past year and our plans for the coming year. We have our work cut out for us this academic year with accreditation, program review, and a myriad of other institutional activities all looming over the campus. We urge you to support your colleagues on the challenging road ahead. Remember that Classified Staff lead by example at Merritt!

## Meet Your 2015-2016 Senators!



Left to right: Jamila Saleh, Ron Perez, Maria Perez, Denise Woodward, Charlotte Victorian, Stefanie Harding, Kinga Sidzinska, and Nghiem Thai. (Waaduda Karim not pictured)

Congratulations to the following Senators, who have been elected to serve two-year terms, effective July 1, 2015: Waaduda Karim, Maria Perez, Jamila Saleh, Nghiem Thai, and Charlotte Victorian. Incumbent Senators Stefanie Harding, Ron Perez, Kinga Sidzinska, and Denise Woodward will all continue to serve until June 30, 2016.

MCCS officers for 2015-2016 are:

President: Stefanie Harding  
Vice President: Nghiem Thai  
Secretary: Maria Perez & Denise Woodward  
Treasurer: Charlotte Victorian  
Public Information Officer: Ron Perez

Special thanks to past and outgoing Senators (and ex-Presidents) Tim Brice, Doris Hankins, and Molly Sealund whose many years of dedicated service to the Senate culminated in Merritt receiving a Model Senate award at the Classified Leadership Institute in June 2015. We appreciate their collective leadership.



## 2015-2016 MCCS Goals

At its September 15th meeting, the Classified Senate established the following three goals for the 2015-2016 academic year.

1. Investigate a viable source of funding, develop a thorough plan, and request formal approval for 0.25 FTE reassigned/release time for the MCCS President to engage in collegial governance.
2. Create a personnel algorithm to facilitate the referral of questions and issues to the most knowledgeable and/or qualified staff person to handle the situation.
3. Sponsor two classified professional development activities (one per semester), scheduled when the majority of staff are available, and advocate for managers to shut down offices/service areas and to strongly encourage their staff to participate.

The MCCS will evaluate its progress towards and achievement of these goals at the end of the academic year.



### 3rd Gathering of the Senates

On August 5, 2015, Stefanie Harding and Nghiem Thai joined dozens of other classified leaders from across Northern California for the 3rd Gathering of the Senates at Mission College in Santa Clara. Not only did they get to meet a couple of former employees of President Ambriz-Galaviz, but they also engaged in informative and lively discussions about assessment, program review, professional development, statewide initiatives, and other matters pertaining to classified senates. Pertinent issues and updates from this event were shared with the entire MCCS at its August 18th meeting.

### Back-to-School Backpack Drive

Senators got into the back-to-school spirit by chipping in \$35 to purchase enough colorful school supplies to fill a Hello Kitty themed backpack for one lucky elementary school student. Organized by the Professional Development Committee, with partial sponsorship by the external partners of the new Cybersecurity Program, the Family Giving Tree Back-to-School Drive collected over \$1,000 from the Merritt community to subsidize much needed backpacks and school supplies for disadvantaged students at some of Merritt's feeder schools in the Oakland Unified School District.



### CLI 2015 Report at Flex Days

Past and present Senators who received professional development funding to attend the Classified Leadership Institute in Tahoe City, CA, June 4-6, fulfilled their obligation to share what they had learned at the conference by conducting an informational workshop during the Fall 2015 flex days. The well-attended gathering provided an overview of the many statewide activities and initiatives affecting classified staff.

### Classified Spotlight: Tony Hampton

When did you begin your career here at Merritt College?  
*As a student in 1997 studying to go to chiropractor's school, I met Dr. Barbara Joans, and she enrolled me in some of her classes. One of the things she asked me to do was to fix her occie computer (a 386 with SIPP memory). Working on that I met Patricia Rom.*

What is your current position at Merritt College?  
*I am a Network Support Service Specialist.*

What motivated you to decide on choosing a career here at Merritt?  
*As a student I found the classified workers here really warm and supportive.*

How long have you been employed at Merritt College and with the Peralta Community College District?  
*I worked as a student worker the summer of 1998, then as a staff assistant for the next 2½ years, finally getting hired as a Computer Network Technician in 2000.*

Describe one thing about yourself that no one knows about?  
*I played hand bells in a church choir for 7 years.*



Are you native to the Bay Area? If not, where is your place of birth?  
*I was born in Georgia, but my family was from Michigan, and I was raised in Southern California, only coming to the Bay Area in 1990.*

Who has helped you with understanding "How Things Work" at Merritt College?  
*I would have to credit Patricia Rom for coaching me more than anyone else on how things work at Merritt. She still knows much more than I do about it, and I rely on her every day.*

#### 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.