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## Announcing the First Latinx Graduation and Celebration of Merritt College on April 27

We are excited to announce that Merritt College will be holding its first Latinx Graduation and Celebration of Merritt College on April 27, 2019 in the Student Lounge. This first-time event was created to publicly recognize student achievements and rejoice as they move out into the world and represent their heritage in their new ventures.

This newsletter will provide all the necessary details for the graduates and guests to make this first celebration run smoothly and successfully.

### History

Cesar Chavez often spoke of the importance of education for Latinos to find success in society. Throughout the years, Merritt College has worked toward following his legacy by continuously recruiting, supporting, and advocating for its Latinx students. The college has had an active Puente Program for more than 30 years and recently achieved HSI status (Hispanic-Serving Institution) with more than 30 percent of Latinx students. That population is also supported by the District-wide PACLA (Peralta Association of Chicanxs and Latinxs De Aztlán) which is also sponsoring this event. Next year, we would like to have a District wide Latinx graduation celebration to include all of our four Peralta colleges.

### Planning

With the support of the Merritt community, a committee of nearly 30 faculty, staff, administrators, and students have been hard at work planning to make this event a success. Some of the committee members include: Co-Chairs Maria Suarez Rodriguez and Dr. Lilia Chavez, Jennifer Briffa, Dean Rick Ramos, Isela Santana, Dr. Mario Rivas, Jose Salceda, Dean Syed Hussein, Rosa Perez, Dean Jason Holloway, students Isaac Rosales and Fabian Ancira, amongst others.

### Support

We are welcoming donations from the community to support this event. Please visit the Peralta foundation account website if you want to contribute:

<https://peraltafoundation.networkforgood.com/projects/68006-2019-latinx>

Or use the QR code with your phone to easily access the website



### Details

Along with the ceremony honoring each student, there will be a spiritual blessing, guest speakers, music, short speeches by student honorees, awards and recognitions to supporters, and light refreshments. Each graduate will be presented with a specially designed stole marking the memorable occasion. Some family members will also be invited to accompany the students during this important event.



### Eligibility

All students that identify themselves as Latinx and will be receiving a Degree or Certificate at Merritt College in Spring 2019. Just register with your name and details about your certificate or degree by email before March 22<sup>nd</sup>, we have a limited number of seats: [latinxgrads2019@gmail.com](mailto:latinxgrads2019@gmail.com) . Stay tuned for more information.