

THE MERRITT MONTHLY



Ceremony with Grupo Cuauhtonal (Aztec Dancers)

Accreditation Update

Merritt College was placed on Warning* status last January by the Accrediting Commission (ACCJC) and asked to submit a Progress Report (due March 15, 2010) and a Follow Up Report (due October 15, 2010) on Program Review and evaluation of planning and budgeting processes. These Reports have been submitted, and Merritt will be visited on November 17 by a team of two Commission representatives: Michael Claire, President of College of San Mateo, and Dr. Monte Perez, President of Moreno Valley College.

Merritt College's Accreditation Committee has been meeting weekly to address the Commission's Recommendation and prepare the Follow Up Report. This collaboration of classified staff, faculty, administrators and students has resulted in several products: an annual annual Assessment Plan; a Program Review Evaluation Tool; an Integrated Planning & Budgeting Process Evaluation Tool; and a revised Planning & Budgeting Process Flow Chart.

I plan to convene a forum on November 15 at 2:30 p.m. in the Student Lounge to review how Merritt College has addressed the Commission's recommendation, and to answer questions from students, staff and faculty. Please come with your questions and concerns; I look forward to meeting with you.

Robert A. Adams

*Merritt College's current Probation status stems from three issues identified at the District: Board and District Governance, Financial issues, and implementation of a new Informational Technology System.

Announcement

Please welcome Berenise Herrera, Professional Development Coordinator, who works with our child development students to assist them in earning their AA degree in Child Development. Her position is funded by First 5 of Alameda County. The Department also receives funding from First 5 for the Emergent Teacher program coordinated by Angela Khoo.

EVENTS

Immigration Panel

As part of our Latino Heritage Month activities, over 120 people attended an Immigration Panel on October 6 to discuss a wide range of critical issues affecting our students such as separation from

families, feelings of powerlessness, tensions among cultures, and a sense of inequity. A panel of experts and advocates shared their views and strategies for communities to address these issues.

Maximum Achievement Project Annual Conference



On Saturday, October 23, approximately 200 people attended the second annual MAP conference. The Maximum Achievement Project -MAP- is an academic enrichment and leadership program for African American and low income men. In its second year, the program has increased the academic performance of participating African American students at Merritt College. The theme of the conference focused on intergenerational communication and empowerment.

Dia de los Muertos

*The Puente Project, Centro Latino and ASMC are proud to present Dia de los Muertos at Merritt College!
Wednesday, November 3, 2010*

More than 500 years ago, the Spanish conquistadores landed in what is now Mexico. These colonizers encountered natives practicing a ritual that seemed to mock death. As they began enforcing Christianity throughout "New Spain," any means possible to indoctrinate the indigenous populations were employed. Through conquest, war, insufferable poverty and the introduction of smallpox and influenza by Europeans, Mexicans have had no choice but to adapt to a world seemingly outside of their control. Exchanging their beliefs and rituals for the Christian Trinity, the indigenous population's veneration of the dead remains the same to this day.

As a result, the celebration on November 1st and 2nd comes to life as a unique Mexican tradition



including an altar and offerings dedicated to the deceased. The altar includes four main elements of nature—earth, wind, water, and fire. Earth is represented by marigolds and food. Mexicans believe the souls are fed by the aroma of food. Wind is represented by a moving object like tissue paper. Water is placed for the souls to quench their thirst, and each candle represents a soul, an extra candle for the forgotten soul. The skulls were used to symbolize death and rebirth. Photos of deceased loved ones remind us of our loved ones who visit us on these special days.