



MERRITT COLLEGE

Office of the President



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board Meeting – February 1, 2011

The Fall semester, 2010, was a very exciting time at Merritt College. Much has happened over the last six months as our college community continues to work toward our mission of providing high quality education and support services for our students. As I reflect back on the achievements and accomplishments of the Fall semester, I am amazed, pleased, and delighted to provide you with a glimpse of what has occurred in Business Services, Instructional Services, and Student Services.

BUSINESS SERVICES

- Reorganization of the Merritt College Business Services Office in a manner that effectively and efficiently serves the three segments of the college – Faculty, Staff, and Students.
- Revision of out-dated Business Office and college policies.
- Revised satellite contracts (Sprint, Nextel, AT&T, T Mobile).
- Revised contract with Montclair Soccer.
- Extended office hours – open until 8:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, for keys, parking permits, and escort services.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

- Engaged the campus community in re-establishing the Accreditation Committee. Submitted a Follow Up Report to ACCJC which was favorably reviewed by the Evaluation Team.
- Maintained Merritt's high productivity for Fall 2010 while cutting 15 FTEF from the Fall schedule.
- Implemented a new Chronic Care Assistant Program with 3-year funding from the Department of Labor. This program is the first of its kind in the nation, and is a result of the ongoing Healthcare Sector partnership with the Unity Council and community health clinics.
- Implemented Homeland Security Training for TSA employees at Oakland Airport, funded by TSA and in partnership with Global Corporate College and California Corporate College.
- Increased contract education partnerships with area charter schools and area Head Start programs.

- Implemented a process for assessing course outcomes in order to meet the 2012 ACCJC timeline.
- Participated in the Smart Classroom project with Merritt's Project Manager and vendors. Merritt's Building A is the first in the district to become "smart."
- Suspended the LVN program until the curriculum can be updated and LVN graduates are able to find employment in their specialty.
- Created an orientation and intake process at the Fruitvale Center.
- Secured additional funding through the California Community College Foundation for the CDC Works. This program provides books, transportation and counseling support to mothers on welfare who wish to become pre-school teachers.
- Created a successful Merritt Kids College, -- a summer camp for inner city middle school-age students that provided athletics, art, music and academic programs such as science and research activities.

STUDENT SERVICES

- Hosted United States Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, and Congresswoman Barbara Lee; presentation of the MAP program, workshop with K-12 leaders, and press conference.
- Established an enrollment development team to focus outreach and recruitment of Latinos at target feeder high schools, and the expansion of the Latino youth leadership conference (175 attended).
- Developed bilingual publications through translation of existing materials, and designated bilingual staff to facilitate access and transition of bilingual students and the completion of their educational objectives.
- Outreach to community based organizations including Youth Uprising, Allen Temple and Men of Valor, Unity Council, Workforce Collaborative, social service and law enforcement and parole agencies, and the Private Industry Council.
- Hosted Transfer Day College Fair, October 18th – thirty-seven colleges and universities were available to talk with the 125 students who attended.
- Developed and implemented an early warning process to improve the academic success for student athletes.
- With the assistance of the district staff development officer, the DSP coordinator created the DSP Merritt Web page.
- Solicited and received a \$2.9 million Department of Labor Grant for Community-based Job Training Initiative.
- A triage system was developed and implemented that included an in-take desk complete with computer access to provide immediate assistance. The intake desk provided information and facilitated the enrollment process. A drop-in counselor was available to assist students with quick advising questions (5 minutes). Thus the Peak Enrollment rush was smooth with less crowding for appointments.
- DSPS prepared for peak enrollment by mailing students a notice the previous semester before the opening of spring registration to see a DSPS Counselor early to schedule classes and accommodations for the next semester. Thus the Peak Enrollment rush was smooth with less crowding for appointments.
- Developed a partnership with "Single Stop" to provide Merritt students with access to social services on-site.

- Drafted MOU's with CSU East Bay, UC Berkeley and Dillard University (New Orleans, LA) to increase transfer opportunities for students.
- Articulation Agreements: partial list of institutions for which articulation agreements were reviewed, updated and/or developed: Dominican University, National University, CSU's – Northridge, Long Beach, San Francisco, Sacramento, and East Bay, UC's – San Diego, Berkeley, Los Angeles, and Davis

The following highlights some of the campus events and activities during the last semester:

- August 23, 2010 – Merritt Campus Welcome Day
- September 10, 2010 – United States Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, visited our Maximum Achievement Project (MAP) Program
- October 8, 2010 – Merritt Classified Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- October 11, 2010 – Title III External Evaluation Visit
- October 18, 2010 – Merritt College Transfer Day
- October 22, 2010 – Dr. Vincent Tinto Visit and Workshop
- October 23, 2010 – Maximum Achievement Project (MAP) Conference at Merritt College
- November 15, 2010 – Accreditation Forum
- November 17, 2010 – Accreditation Site Visit
- December 12, 2010 – Fifth Annual Stanley "Tookie" Williams Legacy Summit
- December 14, 2010 – Fruitvale Center Graduation
- December 17, 2010 – Merritt Holiday Potluck
- December 17, 2010 – LVN Graduation

During the month of February the college will be celebrating Black History Month and the following events are planned:

- February 2, 2011, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Student Lounge – "The Black Family: Celebrating Strengths, Facing Challenges", Keynote Speaker is Dr. Wade Nobles
- February 8, 2011, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., A218, – Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Black Youth by Professor Jason Seals
- February 14, 2011, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., A218 – Sex Trafficking of Oakland's Black Girls by SAFE YOUTH
- February 17, 2011, 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., A218 – Strong Black Women: Myth, Realities, and Consequences by Dr. Siri Brown
- February 23, 2011, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., A218 – Elder Wisdom, Elder Respect, by Elder Jah Mz
- February 24, 2011, 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., A218 – How to Build Strong Black Marriages by Rev. Robert McKnight

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