



We Change Lives!



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Dear Merritt Faculty, Staff and Students,



Dr. George Herring
President, Merritt College

I would like to express my special thanks to our Accreditation Committee. The Committee worked day and night to produce our Accreditation Midterm Report which was submitted to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) on March 15, 2012. On April 17, 2012, the Commission will be visiting our campus to validate our report. Please read the report prior to their visit.



Accreditation is vitally important to the operation of the college. Accreditation is a voluntary system of self regulation developed to evaluate overall educational quality and institutional effectiveness. ACCJC is authorized by the U.S. Department of Education and operates under the corporate entity of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The ACCJC accreditation process provides assurance to the public that the education earned at Merritt is of value to the student who earned it. Employers, trade or profession-related licensing agencies, and other colleges and universities can accept a student's credential as legitimate.

I want to thank all of the following individuals who assisted with the development and writing of this report:

Dr. Linda Berry, Former Accreditation Liaison Officer
Anita M. Black, Interim Vice President of Instruction
Dr. Eric Gravenberg, Vice President of Student Support Services
Alexis Alexander, Peralta Professional Development Officer
Sinead Anderson, Associated Students of Merritt College
Tom Branca, Landscape Horticulture Faculty
Marilyn Bull, Support Staff, Office of Instruction
Patricia Denoncourt, Coordinator of Learning Center
Dr. Melinda Downing, Biology Faculty
Ann Elliott, English Department Co-Chair

Rachel Hurtubise, CARE Program Specialist
Ken Litchfield, Landscape Horticulture Faculty
Pamela Mack, Sociology Faculty
Jon Murphy, Allied Health Faculty
Dr. Steve Pantell, Articulation Officer
Dr. Tae-Soon Park, Academic Senate President
Patricia Rom, College Network Coordinator
Dr. Stacy Thompson, Accreditation Chair
Dr. Audrey Trotter, Title III Project Director
Dera Williams, Office of Instruction

Mission

The mission of Merritt College is to enhance the quality of life in the communities we serve by helping students to attain knowledge, master skills, develop the appreciation, attitudes and values needed to succeed and participate responsibly in a democratic society.

Administrative Highlights

President Herring Meets with Club Altazor



President Herring paid a visit to Club Altazor to learn the trajectory and desires of students. The president gave an inspirational talk about his experiences and role in the foundation of the Concurrent Enrollment Program in the Peralta system. Students informed him of their academic experiences at Merritt, their work in Altazor, and their experiences as Concurrent Enrollment students at UC Berkeley. Nine students have enrolled in the program via Altazor. Altazor is a multicultural, multidisciplinary peer support group open to Merritt students seeking to successfully transfer to a four-year college or university. The Club, under the guidance of faculty

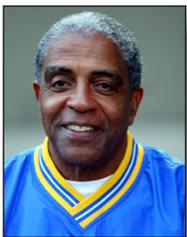
advisor Claudio Duran, helps students navigate the intricate paths of transferring by providing students with the adequate tools and resources to become successful individuals.

Margaret Dixon Receives the Jefferson Award

Kudos to our own Margaret Dixon, an instructor in our Criminal Justice Program, who has won the Jefferson Award. The Jefferson Award is a community service award given by Channel 5, CBS. Margaret was featured in a news story in February. Margaret makes us so proud!



Faculty/Staff Spotlight - Maurice Compton Track and Field Invitational



The 4th annual track meet named after Maurice Compton was held on March 24th. Coach Compton, is Merritt's former Head Track Coach and currently serves as the Athletic Director and Head Men's Basketball Coach. Hosted by San Mateo College this year, while Merritt's field is under renovation, the invitational featured 19 junior college teams from around the region. Coach Compton has been at Merritt for 40 years and was an All-American track athlete at San Jose State University.

Student Spotlight - Phi Theta Kappa Students Honored

Ronald Moss, Vice President Leadership and Deardra Benjamin, Vice President Service attended the Phi Theta Kappa All-State Awards luncheon in Sacramento on March 7th, where they were honored for their scholastic achievements, leadership and service by the Community College League of California. They also received medallions and certificates.

Six PTK officers attended the Nevada/California Regional Convention in Las Vegas, March 9-11, where they found out the awards the Merritt chapter earned this past year and participated in leadership training. Two of the officers are running for regional office.



Ronald Moss

Recent Events at Merritt

Black History Month Events

- February 1- Black History Month Kick-Off
"Home of the Black Panther"
Keynote Address: Bobby Seale
- February 6- Film Maker Frank Dawson talked about his much anticipated film on the origins of the Black Studies Movement
- February 14- "The Huey P. Newton Story and the Recognition Award of Professor Melvin Newton
- February 22- Talk with Les Margoles who interviewed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. while he was in jail. Attendees listened to the interview and learned more about the revolutionary actions of Dr. King and what he was like in person

MC4C Signing Kick-Off

The ASMC Beta Theta Lambda Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society held its first **Call to Action: Pledge to Commit to Complete Community College (MC4C)** signing kick-off.

The event, sponsored by the ASMC, PTK and the Title III Grant Project was in response to the Call to Action signed by the C4 Community College Completion Corps to engage all stakeholders in supporting community college completion. The Challenge website showcases the missions, action plans and strategies developed by each organization to involve their constituency in a joint venture to produce five million more associate degrees and certificate holders by 2020. Merritt President George Herring, ASMC President Sinead Anderson, Beta Theta Lambda Chapter President Jocelyn Andaya, Beta Theta Lambda Chapter Vice President of Leadership Ronald Moss, Merritt Vice President of Student Services Eric Gravenberg, and Title III Project Director Audrey Trotter, delivered motivational speeches encouraging students to continue to strive to complete their degrees and certificates despite challenges that are sure to tempt them to veer off course. The event culminated with participants signing the pledge and banner, receiving a button stating "I'm committed", having their picture taken and a raffle.



Students who have questions about college can **email: mymcptk@gmail.com**. For more information about the Call to Action go to: **cccompletioncorps.org**. To view a video go to: **<http://bit.ly/A8FmcE>**

7th Annual Cesar Chavez Celebration

The Puente Project at Merritt hosted the 7th Annual Cesar Chavez Celebration on March 28 featuring Danza Azteca Cuauhtonal, spoken word artist Stacy Zamora and Keynote Speaker Dr. Mario Rivas.

The mission of the Puente Project is to increase the number of educationally underrepresented students who enroll in four-year colleges and universities earn college degrees and return to the community as mentors and leaders to future generations. The Puente model consists of three interrelated components: writing, counseling, and mentoring. Puente staff is trained to implement a program that consists of accelerated writing instruction, intensive counseling and leadership training.

For more information, contact Isela González Santana, English Instructor, at (510) 436-2648 or isantana@peralta.edu or Juana Martinez-Rodriguez at (510) 434-3943 or jmartinezrodriguez@peralta.edu.

Please check out the new Puente website at www.merrittpuente.com

Around Merritt

Merritt Faculty Members Performing at Yoshi's Oakland



MLAT/History Professor Claudio Durán a.k.a. Quique Cruz, and English Professor María Acuña will be performing with their band Quijeremá and special guest, Grammy nominated guitarist Alex de Grassi at Yoshi's Oakland on Thursday, April 12, 8:00 & 10:00 pm.

Quijeremá has traveled nationally and internationally for over 10 years, and was also nominated by the International Documentary Association for Best Soundtrack in 2009 for their PBS film Archeology of Memory. Their current work, *Al Son del Tunduki*, is a musical journey to unearth and celebrate the importance of the African Diaspora in the Americas.

In 2000, Alex de Grassi and Quique Cruz collaborated in the creation of "Tatamonk," a true fusion of original compositions based on Andean music and jazz. They are reuniting to continue collaborating, this time in Quique's new project with his band Quijeremá.

Merritt College Peralta Association of Chicanos/Latinos/as de Aztlám

PACLA at Merritt has been active for three years, meeting biweekly, to plan activities, and create strategies to support Latino/a students, professors and staff at the College. In the past three years, it has been pivotal in the organizing of the Student Latino/a Conference at Merritt. This semester they have been working on a plan to enhance the presence of Latinos/as at Merritt at all levels in the college.

The members of the organization are:

Isela Santana (English): Head of the Puente Program and Advisor to Puente Club

Marta Zielke (Counseling): Head of Centro Latino at Merritt

Juana Martinez-Rodriguez (Counselor): Adjunct Professor, and Puente Co-Coordinator

Mario Rivas (Psychology/ Counseling): Advisor to The Psychology Club

Berenise Herrera: Professional Development Coordinator, Child Development Department

Jennifer Briffa: Adjunct Professor, Child Development Department

Claudio Durán (History/M.LAT): Advisor to the transferring Club Altazor



Film Festival at Merritt! El Molino de la Globalizacion

-EL MOLINO DE LA GLOBALIZACION- THE WINDMILL OF GLOBALIZATION

Film Festival



This semester the Altazor transfer club of Merritt College has kicked off its inaugural film festival; El Molino de la Globalizacion (The Windmill of Globalization) which the club plans to hold every semester. Altazor welcomes everyone to join them in viewing and discussing the artistic responses and examinations by film makers from around the world to Globalization. **The film festival is held every Monday, 6PM at Merritt College, Room A-214.**

Snacks are provided and donations are suggested to help make this event possible. For more information visit: www.altazorclub.com