



We Change Lives!



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MAKING NEWS

President's Message

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Dear Merritt Faculty, Staff, and Students,



Dr. Patricia Stanley
Interim President

After three months on the job at Merritt, I can truly say I feel welcome. I so appreciated the wonderful reception sponsored by the Academic and Classified Senates and ASMC. I enjoyed the wonderful food and loved the flowers, but the best part was meeting many of you for the first time and reconnecting with others I have seen at various meeting and functions. Merritt College is a great institution where you change lives thorough education. Merritt is also a place where caring for students and each other is evident. We have much to do in the short time I have the privilege to be your interim leader with an accreditation response to complete, SLOs and program reviews to write, positions to fill, budgets to stretch, facilities to maintain, and much more. All of these items are critical, but I promise not to lose sight of our purpose in providing excellent education to many in the Oakland community who come to Merritt to learn and gain the skills and knowledge they need to live a quality life and be responsible citizens. Confucius is supposed to have said, "If you love what you do, you will never work another day in your life." I love what I do and hope you also love your work at Merritt College. Thank you for your support as we work together for a short time here at Merritt College.

Patricia Stanley

Dr. Patricia Stanley was appointed Interim President of Merritt College in August and will serve until a new President is selected. Dr. Stanley is the former President of Frederick Community College in Maryland and has served as the First Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges at the U.S. Department of Education. Dr. Stanley has also held a number of positions in California, including Administrator for Workforce Development in the State Chancellor's Office, Administrative Dean at Orange Coast College, Executive Vice President at Cypress College and Executive Director of the California Institute for Career Development.

She is active in numerous community and educational organizations at both the state and national level and has participated in international education programs. She recently served as co-editor and chapter author for Fulfilling the Promise of the Community College, a monograph sponsored by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and the American Association of Community Colleges.

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

Merritt Receives Funds from Workforce Development Consortium



President Patricia Stanley with Congresswoman Barbara Lee (far left) and Peralta Trustee Abel Guillen (far right)

Merritt College is part of a consortium led by Contra Costa Community College District which received funding from the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) for Design it – Build it – Ship it (DBS). DBS is a regional workforce initiative that represents an unprecedented opportunity for the East Bay Area to build accelerated, intensive, and regionally articulated programs of study so that dislocated workers or unemployed adults can earn degrees or credentials of value enabling them to enter the workforce in industries with growing occupational demand including Advanced Manufacturing, Logistics and Engineering.

This project is grounded in established research, ongoing regional industry engagement, and builds off of other sub-regional work in the East Bay including the Bay Area Manufacturing Renaissance Council, research led by the East Bay Economic Development Alliance, the Bay Area Community College Consortium, and the Alameda Transportation and Logistics Academic Support Initiative. DBS integrates these sub-regional alliances into a broader shared framework that defines training pathways, industry engagement, and regional partnerships tied to advanced manufacturing, logistics, and engineering industries that are key to the growth of the East Bay economy.

Peralta Chancellor Visits the Merritt Campus



Chancellor Ortiz (center) with Merritt Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. Stacy Thompson; Dean of Special Programs and Grants Division, Horace Graham; Vice President of Instruction, Anita Black; President, Dr. Patricia Stanley, Academic Senate President, Dr. Tae Soon Park; Vice President of Student Services, Dr. Eric Gravenberg; Science Technician for the Landscape/Horticulture Department and Classified Senate President, Molly Sealund, and Business and Administrative Services Manager, Dr. Dettie Del Rosario

New Peralta Chancellor, Dr. José M. Ortiz, visited Merritt as part of his tour of all the Peralta campuses, where he spoke to the faculty, staff, student body and administration about his plans for the district. Dr. Ortiz emphasized his intent to listen and to focus on what is best for students. Dr. Ortiz described an open-door policy, where all input would be valued.

Chancellor Ortiz spoke about the survey that he disseminated to get feedback from the campuses and encouraged anyone who had yet to complete the survey to do so.

Dr. Ortiz previously served as the Superintendent/President of Allan Hancock College in Santa Barbara County and is no stranger to Peralta, having served as Vice President at Laney College



Chancellor Ortiz with Merritt Chemistry Instructor Ray Chamberlain

Administrative Highlights



Merritt College Title III Grant Project—2008 to 2013

The Title III Grant Project is a five-year comprehensive development grant awarded by the U. S. Department of Education Strengthening Institutions Program to colleges and universities. Title III grants are designed to increase institutional self-sufficiency and to strengthen the capacity of colleges in making substantial contributions to higher education. The Merritt College Title III Grant activity is designed to Strengthen Pathways, Systems, and Services to Maximize Student Success through three component areas and four broad goals.

- **Goal 1:** Strengthen the institution's core academic performance indicators in four key areas: retention (persistence), drop rate, course completion, and transfer
- **Component I:** Curriculum and Instruction—**Goal 2:** Strengthen the curriculum for basic skills and gateway courses
- **Component II:** Faculty and Staff Development—**Goal 3:** Expand faculty and staff professional development to improve instruction and support services
- **Component II:** Support Services for Students—**Goal 4:** Improve delivery and integration of academic and non-academic support services for students to enhance student success

Highlights of the Merritt College Title III Grant—Success is A Team Effort

- Annual evaluation of student outcomes for four key academic performance indicators resulting in improvements
- Dr. Hunter Boylan External Evaluation, and Foundations for College Success (FOCUS) to improve the delivery of developmental education—Dr. Siri Brown, team of faculty and staff
- Teacher Brown Bags- Ann Elliott, Dr. Siri Brown, Isela Gonzalez Santana, & Mika VanSpanje
- Summer College Student Success Institute (CSSI) bridge program for high school graduates—Isela Gonzalez Santana
- Thriving Learning Communities and Integrated Learning--Dr. Stacy Thompson
- Campus-based Teaching and Learning Center for faculty and staff—formerly Anita Black
- Professional development activities facilitated by nationally known practitioners—Dr. Norena Badway, Dr. Vincent Tinto, Dr. Gillies Malnarich, Dr. Kay McClenney CCSSE, Seattle Central Community College faculty on Integrative Learning, Dr. Patricia Stanley and Tom Brown, First-Year Student Engagement, Ethics, Professionalism, and Technology, and Microsoft Office Certification
- Embedded tutoring program and faculty trained in supplemental instruction
- Faculty and staff participation in national conferences and institutes--the Kellogg Institute on Developmental Education, NISOD, AACC, FYE and other national conferences and institutes
- Annual Campus Innovation Mini-Grants
- Noel-Levitz external evaluation to guide a Student Services Implementation Team- Angela Khoo, Tanya Ilarde, Ron Perez, Minh Dao, coordinated by Debra Jacks
- Developed a year-long, transfer-oriented First-Year Experience Program- Joel Gagnon, Steve Pantell, Alison Hunter, and Marta Zielke
- Title III Counselor support for Learning Communities/FYE—Martina Elliott and Danielle Odom
- Improved key matriculation procedures—mandatory Assessment and Orientation—Minh Dao, Debra Jacks, and support by Vice President Eric Gravenberg
- Student Educational Plan (SEP) process under development—Steve Pantell and Marta Zielke
- Transfer efforts supported by Tanya Ilarde and Title III research support staff
- Title III grant activities linked to the College's accreditation processes
- Four years of successful formative and summative Title III Grant external evaluations
- Assisted in improving College and District practices in grants administration and management
- **Special Thanks For Excellence:** Alejandria Tomas, Title III Staff Assistant who just gets things done! Lorna Pacual, who has served with distinction since the writing of the Title III grant. To all faculty, administrators, and staff who have supported the grant at the College and District

Administrative Highlights

Administration of Justice Program Receives Funding

Margaret Dixon and the Administration of Justice Program received VATEA funds for Vocational Educational Training. The funds were used to purchase bicycles and equipment for the student aides in the program. "The student aides are the eyes and ears of the campus and work alongside our deputies. They basically do security for the campus. These students are conscientious about security and for many of them it's a career ladder. They monitor the campus and the bicycles allow them to get to the various parking lots much easier. The students are excited to get this new equipment, which will help them enhance their career training." Administration of Justice students are trained to enter a variety of fields of public safety- law enforcement, parole, probation, forensics, or work in security.

Student Aide Jasmine Jackson says, "The best thing about the Administration of Justice program has been the hands-on training. We have done CPR, handcuff and bike training, along with every other kind of training that you can think of that has to do with being a police officer, security guard, public safety or emergency worker." Cynthia Zamora expressed why she chose to be in the program- "Because I'm a Administration of Justice major, I felt that I needed to improve my communications skills. If you want to do anything in this field and protect yourself and the community, you have to have great communication skills." Devon Williams said, "My relationship with the deputies goes further than most because I want to be a law enforcement officer and talking to them gives me insight into what to expect and what to be aware of."



Administration of Justice Student Aides
with Instructor Margaret Dixon

The Administration of Justice Program also received a portion of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) funds. "I'm excited about this grant, which will provide additional bicycles, equipment and enhancements to the Administration of Justice program", says Program Director Margaret Dixon. We are developing a certificate program for Homeland Security and security guards, for which the grant will provide transceivers, recorders and surveillance equipment. Merritt is seeking to be the number one Administration of Justice program in the area and this grant and new programming will help a great deal." Next semester will also be the first semester that Merritt College offers Introduction to Forensic Investigation and the program will be purchasing scopes and other equipment for those classes. The new program should be in place in Fall of 2013.

Merritt Certified for Stand-Alone Courses

Merritt College has been certified by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to approve stand-alone courses for the 2012-2013 academic year. The certification, pursuant to California Education Code and title 5, section 55100, permit community college districts to approve, without prior approval by the State Chancellor, non-degree-applicable credit courses and degree-applicable credit courses, which are not part of an approved educational program.



Congratulations to Anita M. Black, Interim Vice President of Instruction and Alexis Alexander, Curriculum & Instructional Council (CIC) Chair. Alexis conducted training for fellow CIC members!

Around the Campus

Transfer Day at Merritt a Success



The annual Transfer Day College Fair was held on October 9 in the Student Lounge. Transfer Day is an opportunity for students to meet with four-year university admission representatives, learn about colleges they've never considered, and expand their transfer options. "I've had many students report that they first considered the possibility of transferring to a four-year university as a result of their professor bringing them to the fair", says Tanya Ilarde, Transfer Day Coordinator. "The success of Transfer Day is a reflection of Merritt College's institutional commitment to our students' educational and transfer goals."

Student Perry Malbrough said that his plan at Merritt was to double major in African American Studies and Business. "I hope to also open up a teen center or some foster homes. My goal today at Transfer Day is to find different colleges that offer great programs that will help to get me where I'm going." Luis Del Muro said, "The most interesting thing about Transfer Day is seeing all the universities and the options we have as students. For example, I'm about to apply to transfer next month, and there are Universities that I considered, but seeing other universities I haven't seen before, such as Hispanic University- and since I am of Hispanic heritage- I wanted to see what they had to offer."

The Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Coordinator for Diversity, Recruitment and Retention with California College of the Arts, Sherie Gilmore-Cleveland, said "I am so encouraged by the different opportunities the students at Merritt have at Transfer Day- just to have access to colleges and resources. I am from Oakland and really feel that it's important for students to get information on the pathways to a four-year degree. CCA is here to let students in the arts, design, architecture and writing know that there are institutions that have a niche for them."



Peralta Associate Vice Chancellor of Technology Visits Merritt



The Peralta College Associate Vice Chancellor of Technology, Mr. Calvin Madlock, attended the Humanities & Social Sciences Division 1 faculty meeting, chaired by Dr. Stacy Thompson. Mr. Madlock gave an overview of his vision for the future of the District's technology, which was followed by a question and answer session that included a clarification of the District's switch in e-mail systems. Mr. Madlock was well received by the attendees who found him to be quite informative. Mr. Madlock reports to Peralta's Vice Chancellor for Finance and oversees technology services at the four Peralta Campuses.

Around the Campus

MERRITT COLLEGE

What's Happening with the Puente Program

Puente Program at Merritt turns 15 years old this year. Puente is a statewide academic preparation program that for more than 25 years has improved the college-going rate of tens of thousands of California's educationally disadvantaged students. Its mission is to increase the number of educationally disadvantaged students who: Enroll in four-year colleges and universities; Earn college degrees, and; Return to the community as mentors and leaders of future generations. Last semester, a record-breaking number of Puente students transferred to four-year colleges and universities. Puente also enables students to meet with mentors and other professionals, meet authors and develop reading and writing skills.

The members of Puente created an alter display to celebrate Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, for a celebration on October 31st. Says Puente member Eric Sanchez, "Although it is Halloween and we have our faces painted, this not a costume party. We're celebrating the life of family members that have come before us and passed away." One of the event organizers, Crissell Castillo said of Puente, "Puente is a really nice program that helps Latino students at Merritt and puts on events like Dia de los Muertos. It really brings our community together- not only Latinos, but other ethnicities and cultures."

Puente Program Co-coordinator, Isela Gonzalez Santana said, "It was a great honor to have Chancellor Ortiz participate in our Annual Day of the Dead community event. Our Puente students, including members of Club Altazor and Images in Motion Learning Community, were absolutely elated. Ortiz spoke in Spanish and told them how proud he is to be the first Latino Chancellor of the Peralta District. It was such a blessing to be able to honor the memory of several Peralta faculty, staff and students who've recently passed, including Pamela Price, Loretta Hernandez and Larry Ward. We appreciated the unity demonstrated on this special day in which we honor our loved ones and celebrate LIFE!



Puente students host a fundraiser on campus



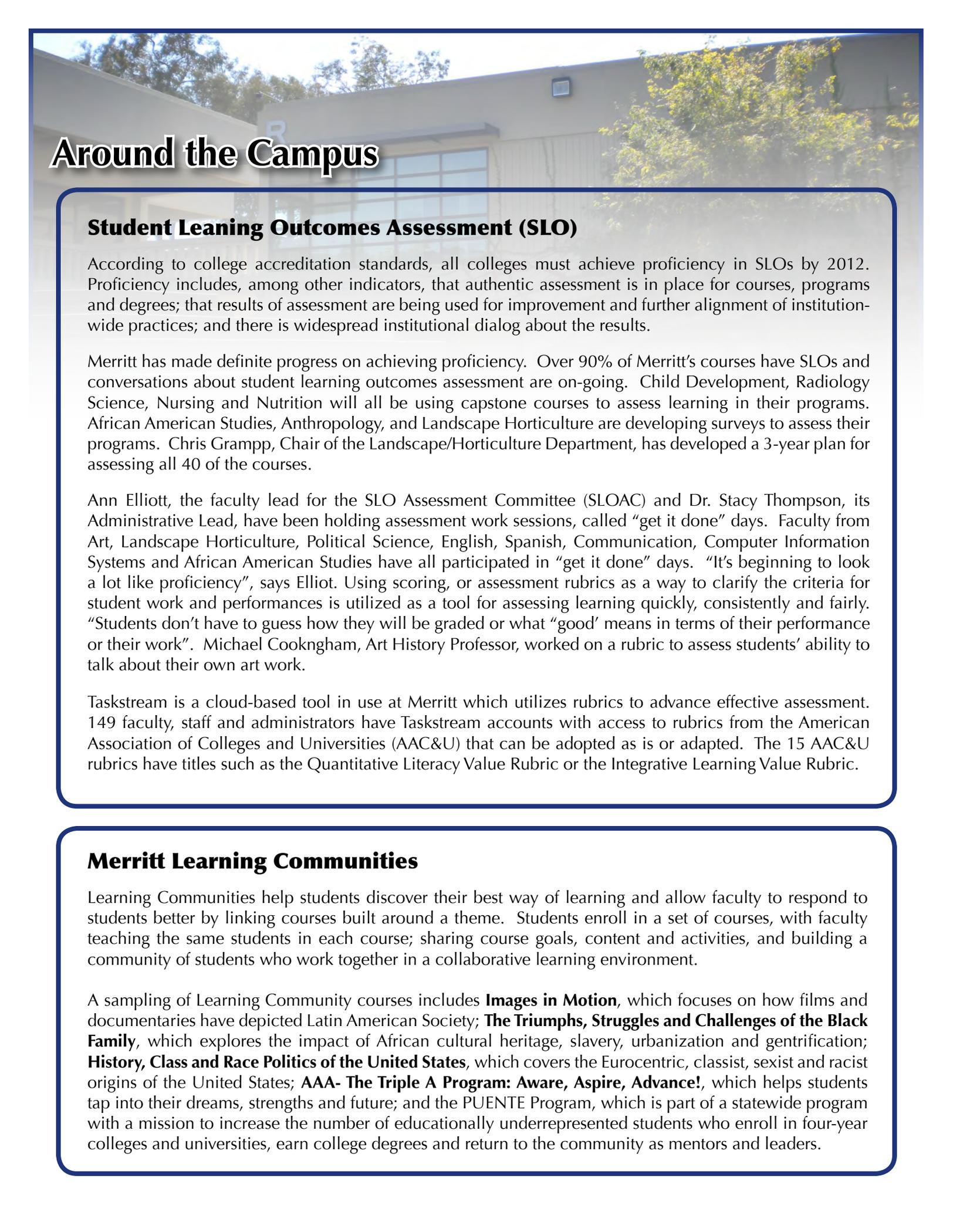
Dia de los Muertos alter created by Puente members

Merritt College Library

The Library has two newly installed photocopy machines in A-130; the machines take cash or students can now use their campus GoPrint cards.

As part of the library's ongoing assessment an in-house and online survey will be conducted in order to better determine students' use of library services, materials, and computing. The survey will be released about mid-November. Please respond with your thoughtful ideas and comments.

The library has also been expanding its digital book collection; these can be read from the library's computers, ipads at home, or even your cell phone. Current registered students can obtain the passwords to the ebooks and ejournals at the Library Reference Desk.



Around the Campus

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment (SLO)

According to college accreditation standards, all colleges must achieve proficiency in SLOs by 2012. Proficiency includes, among other indicators, that authentic assessment is in place for courses, programs and degrees; that results of assessment are being used for improvement and further alignment of institution-wide practices; and there is widespread institutional dialog about the results.

Merritt has made definite progress on achieving proficiency. Over 90% of Merritt's courses have SLOs and conversations about student learning outcomes assessment are on-going. Child Development, Radiology Science, Nursing and Nutrition will all be using capstone courses to assess learning in their programs. African American Studies, Anthropology, and Landscape Horticulture are developing surveys to assess their programs. Chris Grampp, Chair of the Landscape/Horticulture Department, has developed a 3-year plan for assessing all 40 of the courses.

Ann Elliott, the faculty lead for the SLO Assessment Committee (SLOAC) and Dr. Stacy Thompson, its Administrative Lead, have been holding assessment work sessions, called "get it done" days. Faculty from Art, Landscape Horticulture, Political Science, English, Spanish, Communication, Computer Information Systems and African American Studies have all participated in "get it done" days. "It's beginning to look a lot like proficiency", says Elliot. Using scoring, or assessment rubrics as a way to clarify the criteria for student work and performances is utilized as a tool for assessing learning quickly, consistently and fairly. "Students don't have to guess how they will be graded or what "good" means in terms of their performance or their work". Michael Cooknham, Art History Professor, worked on a rubric to assess students' ability to talk about their own art work.

Taskstream is a cloud-based tool in use at Merritt which utilizes rubrics to advance effective assessment. 149 faculty, staff and administrators have Taskstream accounts with access to rubrics from the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) that can be adopted as is or adapted. The 15 AAC&U rubrics have titles such as the Quantitative Literacy Value Rubric or the Integrative Learning Value Rubric.

Merritt Learning Communities

Learning Communities help students discover their best way of learning and allow faculty to respond to students better by linking courses built around a theme. Students enroll in a set of courses, with faculty teaching the same students in each course; sharing course goals, content and activities, and building a community of students who work together in a collaborative learning environment.

A sampling of Learning Community courses includes **Images in Motion**, which focuses on how films and documentaries have depicted Latin American Society; **The Triumphs, Struggles and Challenges of the Black Family**, which explores the impact of African cultural heritage, slavery, urbanization and gentrification; **History, Class and Race Politics of the United States**, which covers the Eurocentric, classist, sexist and racist origins of the United States; **AAA- The Triple A Program: Aware, Aspire, Advance!**, which helps students tap into their dreams, strengths and future; and the PUENTE Program, which is part of a statewide program with a mission 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.

Food Matters at Merritt College

Over 200 students, faculty, staff and administrators participated in the kick-off event of Food Matters at Merritt College, where students learned about Integrative Learning Assignments that are designed by faculty and requires students to address the central topic or theme Food Matters at Merritt. The long term goal is to have one or more faculty from every discipline area in the college participate with an integrative learning assignment with a common theme. Culminating activities for the integrative learning assignment will be on Earth Day, where students will share what they learned.

Selected themes include, **English:** How is food marketed to kids on TV, analysis of TV advertisements; **Anthropology:** Food justice; **African American Studies:** Slave Food; **Mexican and Latin American Studies:** Food exchange, where food comes from and North American Free Trade Agreement; **English:** Food deserts, comparison of the number of food markets versus liquor stores in certain communities.

For more information, contact Dr. Stacy Thompson at 436-2609 or sthompson@peralta.edu



Twenty-one New Members Inducted into Phi Theta Kappa

On November 30th, 21 Merritt students were formally inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, Beta Theta Lambda Chapter. Dr. Patricia Stanley, interim President of Merritt College, was the keynote speaker and her speech focused on the four hallmarks of Phi Theta Kappa: Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Fellowship, explaining how each is important in one's life. Four Chapter officer also officiated during the ceremony, welcoming in the newest members. Newly appointed Junior Advisor, Tobey Colston, opened with the welcoming remarks and closed the ceremony.



Fall 2012 Inductees, Chapter Officers and Advisors,
Merritt College Administration and Staff

We commend these students for their high academic achievements, their leadership and service to their community. Congratulations to each of the inductees. Merritt wishes them continued success. Students with a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.25 or higher with 12 transferable/degree units are invited to membership each semester via an e-mail letter sent by the College President. Merritt's Chapter has been very active the past 6 years, achieving a Four-Star Chapter Development level (out of 5) for 2 consecutive years; 1 All-USA recipient, 6 All-State recipients, 1 Coca-Cola Silver Scholarship recipient, as well as several other members who have been awarded scholarships through Phi Theta Kappa, the Peralta Community College District and the Peralta Foundation. Additionally, members are given opportunities to develop their leadership skills through local, regional and international associations and programs.

For more information about the Beta Theta Lambda Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at Merritt College, e-mail: mymcptk@gmail.com.

Peralta Achievement Collaborative

The Peralta Achievement Collaborative (PAC) is a Department of Labor funded program targeting populations with barriers to employment including those reentering the community from incarceration, displaced workers, long-term unemployed and limited English speaking individuals. The program provides employment, training and supportive services for 300 students, with a focus on several key sectors. PAC works in concert with four community based organizations- Allen Temple Baptist Church, Berkeley Youth Alternatives, Acts Full Gospel Church of God in Christ, Men of Valor Academy and the Oakland Private Industry Council.

PAC is preparing to graduate a cohort of students in December in which up to 40 students will be successfully completing their year-long Career Technical Education programs. Coordinating Staff Assistant Von Segerberg says, "I am really looking forward to the graduation. We'll have all four of the career pathways represented- Logistics and Transportation, Green Construction, Urban Agro-ecology and the Emergency Medical Technicians Program."

Last semester PAC students planted saplings on the Quad side of the Library and the students are currently working on a City of Oakland Beautification project at the Coliseum Transportation Hub in which they will be installing planters.

Merritt Spotlights

Dr. Audrey Trotter

The Merritt family wants to celebrate the achievements of Dr. Audrey Trotter, Director of the Title III Program and Learning Center. Dr. Trotter began as a faculty member teaching Education and Learning Resources at Merritt College in 2003 and has served in the Peralta Community College District since 1999. Currently, she serves on the Academic Senate as Treasurer, College Council, Accreditation Committee, Co-Chair of the four-year long Building L Facilities Renovation Project for the Learning Center and Library, lead facilitator of Merritt's Annual Achievement Awards Celebration, and the annual College Convocation which will mark its second year in December.



Dr. Trotter has 32 years of diverse experiences in community colleges in three regions of the county. Progressively responsible and successful professional experiences have included teaching, academic administration, and student services programs in comprehensive, multi-college, and multi-campus districts. She has served as a Chief Instructional Officer, teaching in K-12, in small business management, community college, non-profit and public/municipality consulting, at the state level with community college trustees lobbying for community college issues, and in the community college division of a state's higher education agency.

Dean of Special Programs and Grants Division Horace Graham Retiring

After 14 years of service to the Peralta Community College District, Dean Horace Graham is retiring. In addition to Dean of Special Programs and Grants, a Division of Student Services, Mr. Graham has served as a Union Steward for SEIU, President of the Classified Senate, Job Developer for CalWorks, Site Manager for the One-Stop Career Center, Coordinator for Cal Works and Instructor in COPED 450 General Work Experience. Dean Graham will be sorely missed, but we wish him well as he moves into the next phase of life- relaxation!



Osher Scholarships awarded

The Office of Students Services is proud to announce that 16 students were awarded \$7,500 in scholarships from the California Community College Endowment/Osher Scholarship. The 16 students will receive their awards prior to the end of the fall semester.

Over the course of three years, California Community Colleges raised \$67.7 million for a permanent scholarship fund that will support students who struggle to afford the ever-rising cost of an education. This endowment will fund at least 3,380 scholarships every year, forever.

The Endowment and corresponding three-year fundraising campaign were made possible thanks to the generosity of The Bernard Osher Foundation. In May 2008, The Osher Foundation made a historic pledge to the California Community Colleges, giving an unprecedented lead gift of \$25 million to establish the endowment, and committing another \$25 million in match dollars for up to \$50 million raised by the system to endow scholarship support for transfer students from California Community Colleges to UC and CSU campuses.

The result today is a \$67.7 million scholarship fund that will provide much-needed financial support to students at each and every California Community College, forever.



Let's Talk: Peralta Peer Education Project

The Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services Agency has awarded \$320,000 to the Peralta Community College District for a campus mental health education and services program. Merritt was the first program to be launched, "From Street Smarts 2 School Smarts" and Mental Health Services Interns Ronald Moss and Will Brown have high hopes and aspirations for the program. The team has created a workbook and manual, which focuses on effective communication and life skills. "Students must be able to communicate effectively, which will result in more powerful outcomes", says Moss.

Participants in the program are either referred or volunteer, based on issues with anger management or incidents of insubordination. Deliverables of the grant include 1) Creation of a network of trained student para-professionals who will conduct support groups and offer one-on-one peer consultation to students; 2) Developing a campus-based social media campaign to reduce stigma and promote awareness of mental health issues; and 3) Conducting workshops for students, faculty and staff to promote a "culture of wellness".

The Mental Health Services Interns, or Peer Support Specialists, will be trained in a nationally recognized peer counseling model called Wellness Recovery Action Plan. Additional training will be provided on Peralta district protocols and policies.

