



MERRITT COLLEGE

Office of the President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Board Meeting – September 8, 2015



- **ASMC Learns and Grows During Summer Retreat, July 27 – August 4, 2015, Student Council Chambers**

Over the summer, the new 2015-2016 Associated Students of Merritt College were hard at work preparing for the year ahead at the ASMC Summer Institute Retreat. Dr. Lilia Chavez, Dean of Student Activities and Campus Life, planned a full schedule for the student senators to build their leadership skills and get to know the college better. Among other activities, she invited guest speakers from within and outside the college to speak, from new academic senate president Mario Rivas to professional parliamentarian Bruce Bishop, and she paired students with various departments so they could show their strengths for possible future employment. The student leaders also participated in a team-building ropes course in San Francisco.



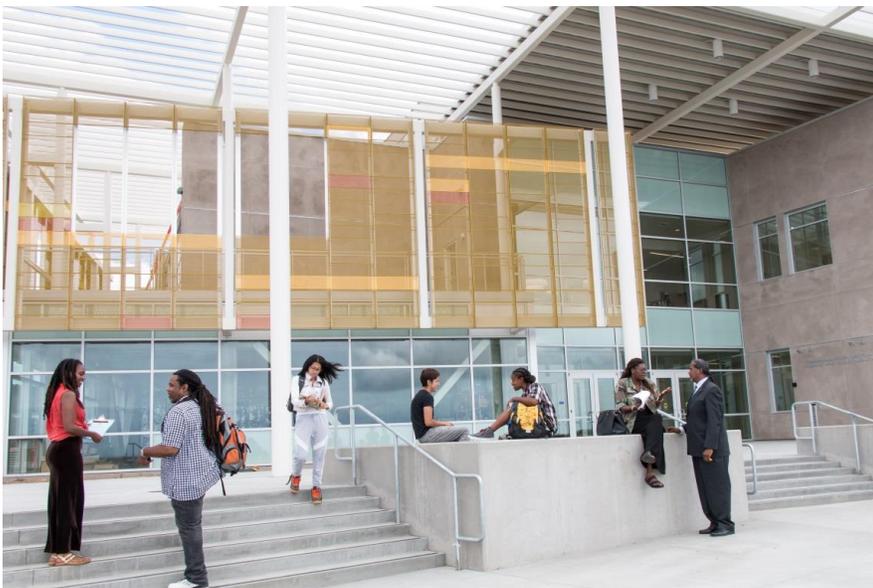
- **A Big Welcome for the Start of Merritt's Fall Semester – August 24, 2015, Quad Area**

New students were greeted on the first day of classes with the friendly faces of the new ASMC who set up information booths around campus as they helped to whoever need it and played music to make the day enjoyable. They also had purchased 350 bottles of water, 300 granola bars, 300 tangerines, 300 apples and 180 lollipops to pass out. Students on their way to their classes appreciated the support as did faculty and staff. New Academic Senate President Mario Rivas thanked the students for "modeling the way for our campus as we work together to make Merritt College a home that inspires, encourages, and supports having the best environment possible for student learning."



- **The Barbara Lee Science and Allied Health Building Opens to Rave Reviews – August 24, 2015**

New students on campus were greeted with the long-awaited opening of the Barbara Lee Allied Health and Science Building. Students found their way to their brand new classrooms and labs by way of steps, elevators, and the winding staircase, called the helix, marking the center of the building. The appealing color-themed design of rust, olive green and gold-colored walls helped designate locations, and students immediately took advantage of the planned “learning neighborhoods,” comfortable areas on each floor designed to allow students space to study or visit with friends, faculty, or staff. One student commented that the building was so nice that it “makes me feel like I’m in a four-year university.” Construction Project Manager Justin Smith said the next phase of the project will be the surrounding landscape. The **Grand Opening Celebration will take place on Friday, November 6, 2015 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** More details to follow.



- **AJ's New Pre-Academy Announced at Standing-Room-Only Press Conference – September 4, 2015, 10:00 a.m., Newton/Seale Student Lounge**

The Administration of Justice's new Pre-Academy got much-deserved attention at a press conference held on Fri., Sept. 4, which brought Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, the District Chancellor Jowel Laguerre, Merritt president Norma Ambriz-Galaviz, law enforcement leaders, students, and many local radio and tv stations and print media. They were all there to hear about the new program, the brainchild of Margaret Dixon, who created the courses to better prepare students to overcome barriers to becoming police officers. Former Oakland Chief of Police and Adjunct Instructor Howard Jordan will coordinate and teach the courses, along with guest lecturers from the OPD and other law enforcement agencies. The 13-week class is currently full and will start on September 16.



- **Accreditation Follow-up Report (AFR) Update**

The AFR core Team at Merritt College consisting of Dr. Audrey Trotter, Dr. Mia Kelly, Ms. Dinh Truong and Ms. Jennifer Kennedy have begun designing the work plan and teams for addressing the nine recommendations for the college. The team established their Standards of practice, communication and accountability for this special assignment which include: Transparency, Trajectory, Sustainability and Systemic Changes. The team will implement, maintain and monitor and include regular uplinks of draft documents, electronic copies of evidence, etc. They have agreed to the following tasks on a regular basis:

- Disseminate information at the end of each month.
- Provide a straightforward synopsis of ongoing updates and progress reports related to our processes.
- Provide a summary on the progress of the efforts made by the Core Team and the Accreditation Follow-up Steering Committee.
- Provide progress reports for the work completed on the nine (9) College Recommendation Subcommittees.

The AFR Core Team is committed to demonstrating SUSTAINABILITY and SYSTEMIC CHANGE.

- The goal of making incremental changes that are sustainable over time with the mindset that our foundational work will create a template for us that can be modified and refined, moving forward.
- Optimally, we need designated teams to commit to a long term plan to ensure continuity by taking responsibility and ownership for specific content areas.
- We want to recruit and mobilize ALL COLLEGE CONSTITUENCIES for the long-term, rather than for the sole purpose of creating a quick one-time fix designed specifically to move us off of probation with no further commitment for follow-up and Sustainability!

- **Concurrent Enrollment Classes Fill Local High Schools**

To make it easier for high school students to take community college classes, Merritt is offering classes in a variety of subjects in eight high schools in Oakland. Courses in African-American Studies, Counseling, Medical Assisting, Anthropology, Administration of Justice, and Business are being taught in eight local high schools this fall. Students will get credit for the classes which they can use at any of the Peralta colleges.

- ASMC Club Rush was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2015, 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., R Building Hallway
- ASMC will be holding a Kickoff Celebration for Latino Heritage month Wednesday, September 16, 2015, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Newton/Seale Student Lounge
- The Africana Center will have its campus opening on Wednesday, September 16, 2015, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., L127
- The Merritt College Bay EMT Firefighter 1 Academy will be holding a documentary screening Wednesday, September 23, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Grand Lake Theater, Oakland, CA
- Merritt College was selected to be visited by the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) Advisory Committee Partnership Resource Team (PRT). A scheduled date will be determined shortly but will occur sometime within the month of October or November 2015

Dr. Ambriz-Galaviz will be attending the following events representing Merritt College:

- Selected as the Keynote Speaker for the HCAC Membership Meeting Dinner, Thursday, September 24, 2015, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Puerto Bello Restaurant, San Leandro, CA

09/08/15