



Board of Trustees Report



June 14, 2016

Dr. Norma Ambriz-Galaviz, President

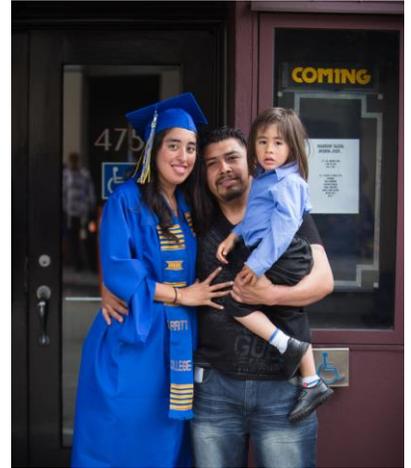
President's News & Notes



Merritt College Graduation

Merritt College held its 2016 Commencement Ceremony on May 25th at the Paramount Theater. In addition, Merritt College hosted 11 additional graduation celebrations on campus and in the community to honor our students.

This year 517 graduates earned their Associate Degree and a total of 618 obtained a Certificate. It makes me incredibly proud to see so many students improving their lives through the power of education! **Well done graduates!!!!**



Valedictorian – Kim Pham



Ms. Kim Pham came to the United States from Vietnam with her husband in November of 2000. She is the youngest of six children and a proud mother of two boys. When she first arrived, she started taking GE and ESL courses at Laney before attending Merritt College. While at Merritt College, she worked as a preschool teacher at Headstart. Ms. Kim Pham plans to transfer to California State University, East Bay and major in Human Development. Ms. Pham has appreciated the educational opportunities she has been afforded and states, “I believe that our society needs people who are trained to think, and those who develop deep knowledge and interest in particular topics. College is a stepping-stone to higher education, a new lifestyle, personal capacity, and a meaningful profession.”

Salutarian – Tania Horne



Tania Horne, born in Hobart, Tasmania, came to the United States in 2012. With over fifteen years experience serving people of disadvantaged and marginalized backgrounds in the field of Criminal Justice in Australia, she returned to school with a goal of bringing best management practices from her home country to make positive contributions here in the U.S. Although going back to school after such a long time presented significant challenges, Tania worked hard to gain an understanding of U.S. history, political science, and justice. She graduated as the 2016 Salutarian of Merritt College with Associate degrees in both Justice Administration and Social and Behavioral Sciences. With a passion for restorative justice, Tania has accepted a position with the University of California, San Francisco for the next year to support the re-entry population in successfully securing gainful employment and transitioning back into the community. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, hiking, yoga, and sailing around the San Francisco Bay. She plans to resume her studies in fall of 2017 and hopes to ultimately earn a master’s degree in Criminal Justice.

President’s Medallion - Cyntheria Owens



Cyntheria Owens is Merritt College President’s Medallion Award winner for 2016. She is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) honor society and will be graduating from Merritt College with degrees in African American Studies, Social and Behavioral Science as well as in Health Science. She is very proud that she was accepted to so many universities and in her own words, says, “I applied to 4 CSUs and 3 UCs and got accepted to all schools: Northridge, Cal Poly, San Francisco, East Bay, UC Riverside, UC Davis, and UC Berkeley.” In the Fall, Cyntheria will attend UC Berkeley and her major will be Social Work and Ethnic Studies. During the Summer of 2016, she will study abroad in Accra, Ghana!

Merritt College’s Final Interviews for Faculty & Classified Staff

Merritt College is thrilled to conclude the final interviews for the Librarian, Biology, English and Kinesiology Faculty Instructor Positions as well as the Classified Student Services Specialist position. The new members of the Merritt College Team will strengthen our community.

Oakland Unified School District - Charter Schools



OUSD CHARTER SCHOOLS

Merritt College hosted a meeting with 15 OUSD Charter School Principals. Each of the High Schools provided an overview of their schools and highlighted their focus areas and enrollment size. The meeting was led by Dr. Gary Yee who reviewed topics such as Measure N and its potential as well as the work OUSD is currently doing with dual enrollment. What made this meeting a success was having a conference room full of local High Schools representatives who gave feedback regarding their experiences with community colleges. In addition, it informed the Merritt College representatives of the potential resources Charter Schools offer.

Department Chairs

Congratulations to the Newly Elected Department Chairs! As a final step in their confirmation, all newly elected Chairs will meet with Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Lamb and President Ambriz-Galaviz.

Art.....Jayi Thompson & Sheila Metcalf-Tobin
Athletics/Kinesiology.....Inga Marciulionis
English/Humanities.....Todd Johnson & Isela Santana
Ethnic Studies.....Jason Seals
Human Development.....Christine Olsen
Legal Administration.....Linnea Willis & Elaine Wallace
Library.....Nghiem Thai
Social Sciences.....Anthony Powell
Biology/Chemistry.....Jennifer Shanoski & Arja McCray
Landscape Horticulture.....Chris Grampp & Laura Forlin
Math/Physical Sciences.....Tom Renbarger & Jason Holloway
Technology & Business.....Carl Ogden
Counseling.....Angela Khoo & Marta Zielke

Merritt College – Bi-Annual Spring Planning Summit

The Bi-Annual Spring Planning Summit is traditionally held in May or June and is the culminating event of the academic year's integrated planning and budgeting activities. The 2016 Spring Summit took place on Friday, May 13, 2016 at the Executive Inn & Suites in Oakland. Administration, faculty, staff and students attended the event and were able to share information and participate in genuine dialogue. The agenda for this summit included presentations, discussions and activities focused on a variety of topics such as assessment, institutional effectiveness and closing the loop/continuous loop activity and student support and success program (SSSP).



President Presents Successful Graduates at Rotary to Show the Value Merritt Brings



When Dr. Norma Ambriz-Galaviz was asked by the Rotary Club of Oakland 3 to give a June 2 presentation about the value of community colleges, she decided to not only show a convincing PowerPoint along with her passionate words, but also to demonstrate the real-life value. So she brought with her four recent Merritt graduates who represent the value that Merritt College brings to the community. Pictured with her at the luncheon are **Tatiana Ochoa**, first-generation college student who is heading to UC Berkeley this fall to study public policy; **Christina Monterrosa**, a single parent of four, whose assistance from CalWORKs allowed her to earn a degree in nursing; **My Williams**, president of the ASMC and an intern in Congresswoman Barbara Lee's office, who is currently on her way to China with a group of students from Peralta Colleges to learn about that country's culture; and **Karim Helali**, possibly the only Tunisian college basketball player in the U.S., who came to Merritt three years ago not speaking English and graduated with a 3.83 GPA and his choice of colleges to play basketball. The president's

presentation and the group of students earned a powerful round of applause from the more than 100 members who learned first-hand how valuable Merritt College is.

Merritt Hosts Innovation 2.0 East Bay Roundtable Led by Congresswoman Barbara Lee

Merritt College was honored to host the Innovation 2.0 East Bay Roundtable discussion in the Barbara Lee Science and Allied Health Center. Congresswoman Barbara Lee, along with Representatives Eric Swalwell (CA-15) and Mark DeSaulnier (CA-11), led a forum with leaders from the academic, high-tech, venture capital, biotech, and telecommunications sectors. The discussion focused on only one question: How can America remain a leader in innovation? This question generated an impassioned conversation that kept circling back to the critical role played by education in training our nation's workforce in science, math, engineering and information technology.



Thank you to Chancellor Laguerre and Dr. Delia for participating in the discussion. **Pictured: Congresswoman Barbara Lee, President Norma Ambriz-Galaviz, Dean Rosemary Delia, and Chancellor Jowel Laguerre with community leaders.**

Merritt College's Professor, Linnea Willis, California Association of Black Lawyers (CABL) President, Honors Congresswoman Barbara Lee at the CABL Convention



More than 500 attendees participated in the April 30-May 1 California Association of Black Lawyers (CABL) Convention, which was headed this year by Merritt's Paralegal Instructor Linnea Willis as president. At the awards gala, several dignitaries were honored including Congresswoman Barbara Lee, who was given a Lifetime Achievement Award, and Merritt's own alum (and Linnea's mentor), CABL's co-founder and former VP of PG&E Robert (Bob) Harris, who was introduced by former PCCD Chancellor Elihu Harris. Linnea also hosted a workshop with Governor Brown's Appointment Secretary Mona Pasquil, and received commendations from Congresswoman Lee and from the Governor's office. **(Pictured: Merritt Alum Robert Harris, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, and Linnea Willis)**

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From Classroom to Creek: Tomas Rossi's Introductory Biology 10 Class Gets Closer to Nature

In mid April, my Introductory Biology class traveled the three miles from Merritt College campus to the exotic and little-known wilderness of Sausal Creek, located in the center of Oakland. Underneath the canopy of trees that bent and arched overhead, the class split into two groups, one of which investigated elements of the water quality of the creek, while the other gathered samples of the insect species present in the creek. Kathleen Harris, a volunteer with "Friends of Sausal Creek," who served as guide and facilitator for the trip, provided instruction on both data gathering and interpretation. Both the water quality and the particular mix of insect species found suggested that the creek was reasonably healthy at the time. The students found the work both relaxing and exhilarating, as the sound of the flowing water provided a pleasant background. In fact, it was easy to forget that the city was all around, just behind the trees. All in all, the trip was a welcome break from the classroom. **Pictured: Tomas Rossi's class at Sausal Creek. Check out his BIO 10 Fall classes!**



--Tomas Rossi

Merritt College 7th Annual Achievement Celebration a Big Success Celebration was truly a night to remember! Congratulations to all of those who received a well-deserved award, to the committee who organized the fun Mardi Gras-themed event, and to all who attended, sponsored someone to attend, donated auction items, or donated their time to assist with making this event memorable. **Pictured: The awesome committee headed by Dr. Mia Kelley and Doris Hankins**



ASMC Vice President Tatiana Ochoa Represents Merritt at the PTK “Nerd Nation” at D.C. Event



Tatiana Ochoa, Regional Manager for PTK’s NV/CA area was recognized for her dedication and commitment at the Nerd Nation International Convention in April. In that role, she attended induction ceremonies as an honored guest, held PTK summits, and provided support to members. For her contributions as a Distinguished Team Leader, she was awarded the prestigious Hallmark Award. “This is an honor as there were only three teams out of the entire organization who are acknowledged and given such an award,” said Tatiana. “This is our victory! I never thought it would be possible, but it happened!”

Even beyond her PTK awards, Tatiana has an impressive background at Merritt and is going on to bigger and better things. She’s learned a lot as both a senator and vice president of ASMC. She will be graduating this month with an AA in Child Development and transferring to UC Berkeley with a minor in education or public policy and eventually hopes to get a Master’s in Public Policy. “I want to have a voice at the decision-making table where sometimes the community and certain individuals are negatively impacted,” she says. “I want to be the person who says, “Wait, are we making sure that by making such changes we are not oppressing a community or individuals?” Good luck, Tatiana, we will expect great things from you! **Pictured: Tatiana Ochoa with fellow award recipient from DeAnza College.**

Five Merritt Students Will Be Heading to China on June 10 for a Two-Week Study Scholarships



The lives of five lucky Merritt students are about to change. On June 10, Myeisha Williams, Ajari McCaster, Michael Lanza, Alicia Castaneda, and Shadie Lee will be leaving for a study trip to China where they will visit three cities, Beijing, Hangzhou and Shanghai, and attend classes in local universities. The China Scholarship Trip came about as a partnership between the Peralta Community College District and the China-United States Exchange Foundation and

Wanxiang Grup Corporation who were targeting college students from the Congressional Black Caucus-member districts. From all four colleges, 21 students were chosen. During their stay, they will receive lectures on Chinese history, language, culture, economic development, and other relative topics presented by credentialed Chinese scholars and also get some sightseeing in!

One of the travelers, My Williams, is ecstatic about this opportunity. “It’s been a dream of mine to travel outside of the country,” said My, who is ASMC president and an intern in Congresswoman Barbara Lee’s office, and will be heading to Mills College in the fall to study public policy. “I plan to learn more in-depth information



about China’s economic development to translate it into action plans for my marginalized communities. I know that this trip will be an enriching experience and a milestone in my career and development as a leader and a scholar.’

Audrey Trotter to Retire, But Her Passion for Community Colleges Will Never Leave

It wasn’t until after Audrey Trotter had graduated from college, taught elementary school, and worked in her dad’s business for several years that she ever heard of a community college.



But when she finally did, she became so passionate about the community college mission that she would spend the next 36 years studying about community college leadership through the doctoral level, lobbying for community college issues, and serving in multiple capacities in seven community colleges across three regions of the country.

On July 5, Audrey will retire from the Peralta Community College District where she spent the last 17 years as a staff member, an administrator, a faculty member, and the lead in major projects that have moved the District forward, both through grants she has administered and multiple accreditations she has led. But in her journey throughout the system, she had only one goal in mind—the students.

Now Audrey is looking forward to her move to Austin, Texas, where she’ll enjoy her retirement (and lower cost of living!), focus on her health, read, relax, and move forward to accomplish personal goals and be of continuing service as she’s done all of her life. She’ll miss her work, but what she’ll really miss is her colleagues. “The people at Merritt are my extended family,” she said, confessing that she cried while writing her retirement letter. “It’s like leaving home. You can’t replace people.”

But, in her heart, she knows it’s time to leave. “My life has always been a journey of faith,” she says. “Even when I didn’t know how I was going to reach my next goal, I had faith and everything always worked out.”

—*Susan May*

Merritt College EMT Parent/Student Orientation



Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Program at Merritt College along with OUSD hosted a Parent/Student Orientation on June 8, 2016. Over 45 OUSD students applied to the Dual Enrollment EMT Program. Merritt College welcomed the excited students and their proud parents to an orientation. Students were assisted with registration by OUSD and Merritt College Administrators.