



Board of Trustees Report



April 12, 2022

Dr. David M. Johnson, President

OPEN HOUSE

As part of our ongoing efforts to establish Merritt as the “Community’s College,” we are excited to host a Career Education Open House on Friday, April 29, 2022. In partnership with Oakland Unified School District and our other K-12 feeder Districts, we expect to welcome over 150 prospective Merritt students (high school juniors and seniors) to tour our campus throughout the day. They will have an opportunity to explore and learn about our exciting and innovative career education programs, such as: Nursing,

Medical Assisting, Fire Science, Nutrition and Dietetics, Histotech and Genomics, Cybersecurity, Digital Marketing, Early Childhood Development and so much more. The event will run from 8:30am to 12:30pm, so to be a part of this amazing day please connect with Marie Amboy, Dean of Allied Health, or Maria Spencer, our Outreach Coordinator.

While the final figures are not yet available for the 2021-22 academic year, I want to share some encouraging enrollment data that we have gleaned from the work of our Director of Research Nathan Pellegrin. The evidence shows that despite the many difficulties caused by the pandemic, several of our programs experienced significant growth during the 2019-20 academic term. Enrollment in our Physics department increased by *50 percent*. The number of students in our Environmental Studies and Fire Science courses grew by *57 percent* in each area, and the enrollment in our Economics classes swelled by *71 percent*. The three areas where the enrollment spiked the most are: Health Professions and Occupations (*98 percent*), Library Information Studies (*173 percent*), and Educational Technology (*251 percent*). As these figures demonstrate, it is absolutely possible to attract new students to programs despite the challenges of the pandemic.



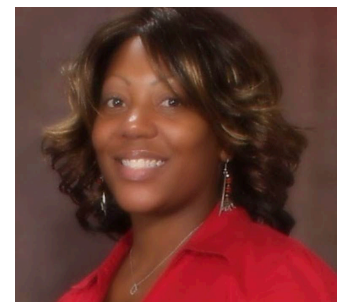
EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION BARBEQUE



In closing, I want to let you know that on April 27 we will be hosting our Classified Employee Appreciation BBQ at the Landscape Horticulture Gardens. At Merritt College we are very fortunate to have the professional staff members that we do, and this event is meant to convey our gratitude. One individual who represents the dedication, resourcefulness, and compassion of our

classified professionals is Ms. Denise Woodward. So please allow me to share briefly some kind words about her.

I think Dean Chriss Foster described her best when she said that Ms. Woodward “shows a sincere interest in the students, staff, and faculty that she works with and because of this, she is known as a great listener, a powerful speaker, and a talented and skilled staff assistant.” She went on to say that Ms. Woodward “willingly shares her knowledge and expertise by training others across divisions...and she should be recognized for her ability to assist wherever she is needed.” On a personal note, I have to add that a few years ago, Ms. Woodward was exceedingly understanding (long-suffering, in fact) when it came to a new administrator who was trying to find his footing at Merritt. So, thank you Denise (and all of the other classified staff members that we appreciate) for everything you do for the college.



Merritt College puts students first. Through our rich educational programs, we foster a culture of equity and inclusion that empowers students to achieve their greatest potential and make meaningful contributions to their respective communities and our global society.