



Board of Trustees Report



November 15, 2022

Dr. David M. Johnson, President



(COLEGAS) Annual Conference in Long Beach. The conference had representation from the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Washington, the State Chancellor's Office and the Community College system Latinx leaders and staff from across the state. The workshops focused on Race Consciousness, Hispanic Serving Institutions, UndocuAllies, Social Justice, Anti-Racism, and more. Every aspect of the conference was intentional, providing people the opportunity to share best practices, expand their professional networks, uplift and validate each other, and support student advocacy work at all colleges.

Two weeks ago, two different groups from Merritt had the opportunity to attend the conferences that empowered and inspired them. On Wednesday, November 3, five employees attended the first California Community Colleges Organization de Latinx Empowerment, Guidance and Advocacy for Success



national press secretary for Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders during his 2016 presidential campaign, and later as chief spokesperson and a senior advisor for Vice President Kamala Harris after the 2020 presidential election. Our students came away with several keys to becoming advocates for change, taking to heart the exhortation for them to be willing to “stand in the gap, confront adversaries when necessary, and be unafraid to take risk. **Coordinator Tauheeda Anderson** shared that she was particularly impressed with the “intentionality of the conference and the emphasis on collaboration with our Latinx brothers and sisters.”

The Statewide Umoja Conference commenced on Thursday, November 4, in Anaheim, with our Sankofa Program sending a delegation of three to the event. The conference provided the opportunity for students to examine, explore, reflect, understand, and celebrate the rich and diverse traditions of Black identities and culture in the United States. The keynote speaker was Symone D. Sanders-Townsend, who served as



On Tuesday, November 8, Merritt welcomed the Partnership Resource Team (PRT) for its second Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) visit. As we continue to focus on bolstering the leadership skills and expanding the professional expertise of our Classified Professional Staff Members, we met with the PRT to discuss optimal strategies (from a Menu of Options they developed from our earlier

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.

feedback) to help reach our collective goals. Approaches considered included creating an independent Classified Professional Development Committee to plan events and activities, as well as developing a professional development website to serve as a primary repository for information on programming and training. The next step is convening the work of our *Drafting Group* to create Merritt's *Innovation and Effectiveness Plan*. We look forward to sharing our progress soon.



Finally, I want to congratulate our own Dr. Jennifer Shanoski for her election to the Berkeley School Board! You may know her as a chemistry instructor at Merritt or as PFT President, but you can now add the title of *elected official*. When asked why she wanted to pursue this office, Jennifer shared, “I am running for Berkeley School Board because I am passionate about public education and community service. I feel so fortunate that my kids have the stability and

strength of Berkeley’s schools and I want to ensure that our schools remain effective, inclusive, diverse, and dynamic.” Well done, Jennifer—we wish you great success and we know that you will bring great passion and commitment to your new post!

