



Board of Trustees Report



September 12, 2023

President David M. Johnson



On Thursday, September 7 Merritt College held its inaugural **Safety Day**. The event provided faculty, classified staff members, and administrators with the opportunity to share their concerns and suggestions related to

public safety. One issue that was raised pertained to the challenge of securing the parking lots (where most incidents occur) vis-à-vis the desire for Marina officers to be more present in the buildings on campus. Director of Public Safety Tim Thomas pledged to work with us to strike the appropriate balance on that. Employees were able to obtain updated identification badges as well (the District printed and provided a total of 52 Ids, so thanks to Amy Marshall for helping to get that done). I also am pleased to share that under the direction of Mildred Oliver (Administration of Justice faculty) and Margaret Dixon (retired Administration of Justice faculty), we were able to recruit more than a dozen students to participate in our Safety Aide Program. We are planning several public safety events and trainings in the weeks to come, and hope the success of Safety Day is a harbinger of things to come!



I want to take a moment to provide a snapshot of the Merritt College enrollment picture. Our resident FTES is still the second highest in the District, and has remained above 1300 since Fall 2021. This fall semester Merritt is offering 422 sections, and 74% of them have an enrollment of more than twenty students. As of census we have attained 80.5% of our enrollment target, but we expect that figure to grow given the number of late-start classes that have not yet started. It also bears mention that we are within our FTEF allocation for the fall term, which bodes well for us in terms of our internal, institutional fiscal management goals.

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.



Some very exciting things are happening with our Landscape Horticulture and Environmental Management/Technology programs. In the case of the latter, our Urban Agroecology program was recently featured in *Edible East Bay*, a magazine that celebrates the food culture of the San Francisco. The article highlighted the outstanding work that faculty member/coordinator Elizabeth Boegel has done to train students in the areas of sustaining farming and food systems, creating school and community gardens, and providing food access in underserved communities. The piece also showcased the efforts of Jenifer Azulay, one of our students who volunteers her time in the community to promote clean energy initiatives, sharing food, and learning DIY skills.

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GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY



On Wednesday, September 6 Merritt held the Horticulture Complex Groundbreaking Ceremony. The project is the consummation of what our faculty, staff members, administrators, and students believed was possible for this institution. That belief was that Merritt College could build a complex befitting the amazing program that we have established, as well as position ourselves as leaders in this field for years to come. This project ensures that we will do that and be that. So thanks go out to the Alameda County voters—who in their wisdom understood the importance of passing a bond measure that made all of this possible. And I would be remiss if I did not recognize some key individuals for whom this project has been a labor of love: Molly Sealund, Nia Hill, Stu Winchester, Chris Grampp, and Laura Forlin—we thank you for working in the field long enough to cultivate it!

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