



Merritt College

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Robert A. Adams, Ed.D.
President

January 7, 2009

Dear Merritt Family,

Happy New Year!

We have accomplished a considerable amount of work over the past semester. Faculty, staff, and administrators have worked tirelessly to complete our self-study which will be submitted to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges in early January. This past semester, the college was awarded two grants: the Title III Grant, Strengthening Pathways, Systems, and Services to Maximize Student Success; and, the Strengthening Minority Institutions, Maximum Achievement Project Grant. The college is also working hard on the planning of the Sustainable Peralta Conference which will be held at Merritt College on April 24, 2009.

The following highlights some of our Fall activities:

- August 15, 2008 – Merritt Campus Welcome Day
- September 10, 2008 – Bay Area Community College Presidents and Chancellors met with University of California President, Robert Birgeneau
- September 30, 2008 – Merritt Classified Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- October 3-5, 2008 – Merritt College Retreat
- October 14, 2008 – Merritt College Transfer Day
- October 16, 2008 – Premier Screening of “Merritt College: Home of the Black Panthers”
- November 6, 2008 – UCLA Chancellor Gene Block’s Visit to the Merritt Campus
- November 18, 2008 – Tenure Track Faculty Luncheon with Faculty Senate President and the Tenure Facilitator
- December 2, 2008 – Board of Trustees’ Listening Session
- December 17, 2008 – Town Hall Meeting with WLC Architects Regarding Merritt College’s Facilities Master Plan

Due to our economic environment, 2009 will be challenging for all of us. We are up to this challenge – I am constantly reminded of the special spirit of Merritt College to make things work when faced with adversity. With limited resources, faculty, staff, and student leaders have worked relentlessly with this administration to provide quality education and support services for our students.

The President’s Three Task Forces have continued to work and meet once a month this past semester and I anticipate recommendations from these Task Forces by the end of January, 2009. The following is an update on the activities of our Task Forces:

Peralta Community College District

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Recruitment and Outreach Task Force

- First Annual Welcome Day for new students and the community.
- Counselors and administrators visited 7 High Schools.
- Latino Transfer Day for Latino high school students sponsored by Puente, Transfer Center and the Latino Student Center.
- Fruitvale Center now has a consistent Counselor and Financial Aid staff schedule that have been positively accepted by our students and the community.
- Research for classes in the community is ongoing.
- Planning African American and Latino Student Summits at Merritt College.
- Planning High Schools Senior Day.
- Planning a President's Breakfast for High School Principals.

Retention and Student Success Task Force – The following goals have been identified:

- Design an Early Alert process for students that need early intervention.
- Use Survey Monkey to gather student data.
- Allocate \$6000 for a reserve book section in the Learning Center.
- Allocate funds to hire a Webmaster to manage Merritt's website.

Resource Development Task Force – Four Workgroups

- The efforts of the **College Fundraising/Corporate Contributions/Grant Development Workgroup** has generated new grants and funding resources to fund enrollment development and outreach.
- The **Sustainability/Green Jobs/ Environmental Justice Workgroup** has diligently worked on marketing green jobs curriculum and community partnerships, supported enhanced recycling efforts on campus and provided paid working internships to eight Merritt students.
- The **Community Education/Neighborhood Engagement/Emeritus College Development Workgroup** surveyed the interests of the community and are developing priorities and projects.
- The **Land Use Real Estate Development/Master Plan/ Public-Private Venture Development Workgroup/ECO-Village** completed the coordination of the Temple Sinai Village, a licensed child care facility, which has generated revenue for the college.

The Spring semester begins with Professional Day on January 13, 2009. The morning session begins at 8:00 a.m., at Laney College. The activities on the Merritt campus begin at 1:00 p.m. Please see the Professional Development Day Schedule that is enclosed. I hope you and your family had a safe and happy holiday. I look forward to seeing you on January 13, 2009.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Adams, Ed.D.
President

RAA:jpb
Enclosure