

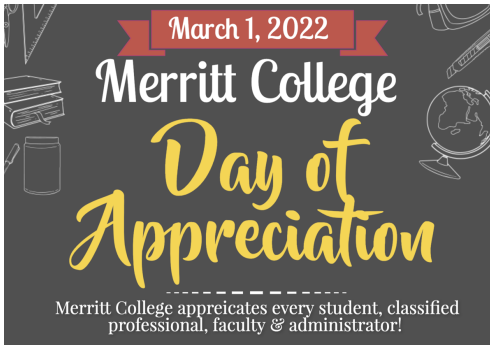


Board of Trustees Report



March 8, 2022

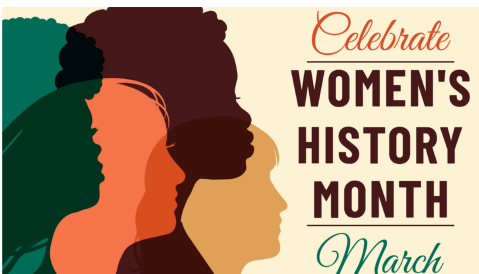
Dr. David M. Johnson, President



On Tuesday, March 1, Merritt held its *Day of Appreciation*—an event where we provided breakfast in the morning and lunch in the afternoon to our students, classified professional staff members, faculty, and administrators. It was satisfying to see so many people come out to eat and fellowship (we had nearly 150 folks at each sitting... Trustee Handy and Director of Marketing, Communication & Public Relations Mark Johnson joined us as well). But what moved me most was the energy, enthusiasm, gratitude and joy that was



on full display. The event was an excellent reminder that despite the challenges of the past two years, we are still connected, committed, and a community. We look forward to doing more of these events in the next several weeks, as we continue to express our gratitude for the work we are privileged to do.



As March is Women’s History Month, I would like to recognize the history (a big thanks to Doris Hankins, Director of Student Activities for sharing some of it with me) that lead to the commemoration. In 1978, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women organized a week-long celebration of all the contributions of women. The National Women's History Project (now known as the National Women's History Alliance) continued to lobby each year to have March known as Women's History Month. In 1981, Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing and requesting President Reagan to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as “Women’s History Week.” In 1987, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9, a resolution to formally designate the month of 1987 as Women’s History Month. But as we celebrate, I also want to recognize the work that the women of Merritt College are doing. Whether it be the women leaders in our administrative ranks, the classified and academic senates, our bargaining groups (PFT/SEIU), our governance groups, or those who are doing great work in the classrooms and our student service areas—please know that you are admired and appreciated.



Finally, I want to share with you that Merritt College (along with our sister schools) represented the Peralta well at the Community College League of California 2022 CEO Symposium held from March 3-5. Some of the topics we discussed included the positive impact of potential student housing projects, the importance of crafting effective strategies for advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and how technology can be best leveraged to address the basic needs of students. What I also found interesting was the number of times people approached me to ask, “How are things going at Peralta?” I can tell you that it was with immense pride that I was able to share that Merritt and this District are on the right track, and that they need not be concerned because we continue to be focused on carrying forward our momentum toward great things for our students and this community.

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.