



# News from Merced College

(209) 381-6470  
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3600 M Street

Merced, CA 95348-2898

Contact: Shannon Picciano  
384-6176

## **OVER 600 STUDENTS TO GRADUATE FROM MERCED COLLEGE**

With one month to go, over 600 students are preparing to graduate with AA and AS degrees from Merced College at the end of this semester. 85 of these students will graduate with regular honors, which require 45 units and a 3.5 GPA or higher in all courses. Six students will be graduating with Superintendent's honors, in which a student has kept a 4.0 GPA during their entire course enrollment.

For Diane Spork, this year's commencement will be especially significant because, not only will she be representing the graduating Class of 2009, she will be graduating along side her son, Joshua. Spork's life is an inspiration to all who will hear her speak. She has overcome multiple barriers in her life that could have easily prevented her from achieving her goals, including homelessness, domestic violence, addiction, divorce and single parenthood. She will be receiving a degree in Social and Behavior Science and Josh will be graduating with a double major in Social and Behavioral Science and in History.

The guest speaker will be Scott Lay, who has also overcome barriers of his own. Lay is currently the president and chief executive officer for the Community College League of California, a nonprofit association serving California's 72 community college districts. After dropping out of high school, Lay attended Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, where he credits the educators for providing him the skills and knowledge needed to earn bachelor's and law degrees at UC Davis.

Commencement will be Friday, May 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the Don Odishoo Field/Stadium '76 on the Merced College campus.

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