



Stacey Kellner is new Executive Assistant to Merced College President

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The headline could read: “A Changing of the Guard at Merced College.” Or, it could read: “The End of One Era and the Beginning of a New One.” However stated, a significant change has occurred in the President’s Office with the retirement of long-time executive assistant De Merino.

Most of us at Merced College recognize De’s many contributions over the 42 years she spent here. Her professional skills were superlative and her knowledge of College history and culture was unmatched. If something had to be done, and done quickly and successfully, De was the quintessential can-do person. But, like others who have spent much of their working life at the College and entered into a much-deserved retirement, De has moved on. Truly, an era has come to an end.

But, a new one has begun with the arrival of Stacey Kellner, Dr. Benjamin Duran’s new executive assistant. Her experience in an administrative support role spans over 17 years in various businesses such as a computer networking company, a foster care and adoption agency and a community hospital.

Stacey was born and reared in Merced and attended Merced High School. She was very involved in Future Farmers of America and was elected the Central Valley Region president, attending field days, and preparing market animals for local fairs on the Merced College campus. Merced College is a place that is very close to Stacey’s heart. Having the opportunity to be part of a college that is so student focused and community oriented is exciting for her.

An important aspect of Stacey’s life is her family and animals. She and her husband, Ray, have been married for seven years and they have a 5 year old daughter, Julia. Her parents, Wayne and Jackie Hicks, still reside in Merced. Stacey says she enjoys spending time with her family, friends and animals, riding her horses, and watching Jeff Gordon or Jimmie Johnson win championships!

If you haven’t met her yet, stop by and introduce yourself. You’ll find Stacey to be warmly engaging and eager to carry on the great tradition of excellence begun by her predecessor.