



(209) 381-6470

News from Merced College

3600 M Street

Merced, CA 95348-2898

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 5, 2015

Contact: Robin Shepard
209.381.6470

MERCED COLLEGE INSTRUCTIONAL DEAN IS MANAGER OF THE YEAR

His colleagues have spoken, and what they declared is that Jim Andersen is Merced College's outstanding manager of the year.

Andersen, who oversees an annual budget of \$1.5 million and 67 full- and part-time instructors and support staff, was recently honored by members of the College's Management Association for his professionalism and support of student success.

"He leads by example," said one of his peers.

Another described him as a "confident leader" with a "vast amount of knowledge and understanding."

Andersen describes his main strength as "my ability to build positive relationships with our faculty and staff . . . these relationships have been a key to any success I've achieved."

The dean of the College's Career Technical Education (CTE) programs for the past seven years, Andersen has helped elevate the status of CTE both at Merced College and around the state.

"If I've left any mark here, it will have been the way CTE is now valued at Merced College," he said, noting that vocational education has always been undervalued by the larger educational community.

"Career Technical Education is so important to the economy of our local community and to communities across the nation. The whole country is now embracing what I've believed for many decades, which is that we need to expand our training of a skilled workforce in these technical trades."

The education road hasn't always been easy for Andersen, who was diagnosed with dyslexia while still a teenager. Reading text is still a challenge for him. However, he developed a style of learning and teaching that relies on visual and auditory information.

"I battle with my dyslexia all the time," he said. "I've overcome it by being a really good listener. For example, I prefer phone calls to emails. My learning style became dependent on visual and auditory aids, and in my classes I've developed animated PowerPoint presentations that I think help students learn what can be very difficult technical information."

By spending hundreds of hours developing these classroom presentations, Andersen been able to, in the words of one of his colleagues, "improve the education of many hundreds of students."

Andersen, now in his 34th year as an educator, simply describes himself as "a fortunate man who loves his job."

"I'm a good problem solver," he said. "And I want to make sure that all of our students succeed here."

Andersen August 2015

FOLLOW MERCED COLLEGE ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER. AND NOW, YOU CAN LISTEN TO OUR PODCASTS AT www.mcpod.podbean.com.