DECEMBER 2020

MERCED COLLEGE CHAPTER 274

CSEA SYNERGY



CSEA Officers E-Board

- Isaac Mock President Ext: 6735
- <u>Diana Butts</u>
 Vice President
 Ext: 6036
- Carmen Morence Secretary Ext: 6709
- Maria Soto
 Treasurer
 Ext: 6058
- Jeanette Martin CCO Ext: 6393
- <u>Terry Plett</u> Past President Ext: 6735

NEGOTIATORS

Angelica Campos Chief Negotiator Ext: 6293

- Sandi Goudy Negotiator Ext: 6184
- <u>Dustin Thompson</u> Negotiator Ext: 6118

Well-Being Institute Registration for Spring 2021





Registration for the spring term is open! More information out about how to enroll will be coming from Human Resources soon.

As part of the side letter agreement regarding the application of AB 1840, Sec. 38 (staff development) funds, classified staff may be reimbursed for the cost of required course materials associated with the Well-Being Institute. Recently, we were made aware that participants are required to purchase an assessment for the *Finding Your Purpose - Leading with Strengths* course. As such, if you would like to be reimbursed for the assessment, please submit a copy of your receipt with your name on it to the Office of Human Resources (Attn: Deanna Abbruzzetti) as soon as possible.

Union Rights

Most of the legal rights and safety laws that protect American workers were not created out of employer goodwill, they were fought for by hard-working union members. Today, unions are under an unprecedented attack from political specialinterest groups who want to roll back worker protections, civil liberties and the right to collectively bargain for pay and benefits.



2021 CSEA Chapter Elections

Merced College CSEA Chapter 274 elections are happening on <u>December 16, 2020</u>! All officer positions are open. Your CSEA E-Board encourages each of you to get involved in your union and become active by running for office.

Chapter Officer Position Descriptions and Responsibilities

PRESIDENT

"Section 3. The President shall:

- (a) Be chairperson of the Executive Board, call and preside over all meetings of the Chapter and Executive Board at which s/he is in attendance.
- (b) Fix the time and place of meetings except as otherwise directed by the membership.
- (c) Set the agenda for Chapter meetings, as noted in Article VI.
- (d) Appoint and direct the activities of the various committees, standing or special, required by this constitution or established by the Executive Board, or as may be ordered by vote of the membership, except as otherwise provided herein.
- (e) Attend all regional presidents' meetings (RPMs) and such other meetings as required by the Association or direction of the Chapter, and report back to the Executive Board and Chapter membership at the next Chapter meeting, with recommendations for Chapter action or as otherwise required.
- (f) Perform such other duties as normally pertain to the office of President or ordered by this constitution."

VICE PRESIDENT

"Section 4. The Vice President shall:

- (a) In the absence or disability of the President, possess all of the powers and perform all the duties in his/her stead.
- (b) At all times assist the president in the performance of his/her duties.
- (c) Assume the office of President if a vacancy occurs.
- (d) Assume the office of President if a vacancy occurs.
- (e) If directed by the Executive Board, compile a report on the activities and achievements of the Chapter, and forward a copy of same to each member in January.
- (f) Serve as Chairperson of the Membership Committee.
- (g) Coordinate and direct the activities of the Site Representatives.
- (h) Coordinate the activities of the standing committees.
- (i) Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President/Executive Board or ordered by this constitution."

SECRETARY

"Section 5. The Secretary shall:

- (a) Keep an accurate record of all proceedings of Chapter and Executive Board meetings, including an accurate roll of members and officers in attendance at each.
- (b) Keep an accurate roster of the officers of the Chapter and see that such information is forwarded to the Association as required.
- (c) Issue notices of all meetings of the Executive Board and Chapter meetings, which shall include notice of matters for discussion at same.
- (d) Notify members of all committees of their appointment/election.
- (e) Have custody of all correspondence, official documents and historical records of the Chapter, which shall be open at all times for the inspection of the President or his/her agent and members of the Executive Board.
- (f) Maintain up-to-date copies of the Constitution & Bylaws and Policy of the Association and the constitution of this Chapter and see that copies of same are available for reference at all Executive Board and Chapter meetings, and available for inspection by the general membership upon request.
- (g) Perform such other duties as normally pertain to the office of Secretary or as may be assigned by the President/Executive Board or ordered by this constitution."

TREASURER

"Section 6. The Treasurer shall:

- (a) Receive all funds of the Chapter and keep and disburse same under the direction of the President and as required by the Constitution & Bylaws of the Association and this Chapter.
- (b) Keep or cause to be kept regular books and full accounts which shall be open at all times to inspection of the President or his/her agent and the Auditing Committee.
- (c) Provide access to all records, vouchers and statements to the Auditing Committee for annual inspection at the close of each fiscal year.
- (d) Report at each meeting of the Chapter as to the financial condition of the treasury with a detailed statement of receipts and expenditures and accounts payable, to include per capita dues/fees paid and owed to the Association if any.
- (e) Prepare the annual PERB financial report to include the last day of the fiscal year, and immediately submit same to the President for review and forwarding to the Association, and the membership.
- (f) Promptly process and forward membership applications and dues payments to CSEA Headquarters and payroll deduction authorizations to proper district office for processing.
- (g) Maintain an accurate record of members in good standing and prepare such monthly reports and remittances as may be required by the Association and promptly forward to CSEA Headquarters within thirty (30) days of request.
- (h) Assist in preparation of the Chapter budget.
- (i) Upon leaving office, sign such bank signature cards or other documents necessary for the transfer of all Chapter accounts to the new Treasurer.
- (j) Perform such other duties as normally pertain to the office of Treasurer or as may be assigned by the President/Executive Board or ordered by this constitution."

CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (CCO)

"Section 7. The Public Relations Officer shall:

- (a) Edit and distribute a newsletter or similar publication as may be authorized by the Executive Board and the Chapter membership.
- (b) Write articles of interest pertaining to chapter affairs for local newspapers and official publications of the Association.
- (c) Perform such other duties as normally pertain to the Public Relations Officer or as may be assigned by the President/Executive Board or as ordered by this constitution

CHIEF UNION STEWARD

"Section 8. The Chief Job Steward shall:

- (a) Ensure that the Job Steward program of the Chapter functions according to the requirements set forth in this constitution; ensure that all grievances are handled properly in their investigation and filing, and consistent in their resolution.
- (b) Maintain the necessary records on matters of contract enforcement to permit the Chapter to effectively represent the bargaining unit employees.
- (c) Process all grievances not settled at the immediate-supervisory level, unless CSEA staff assistance is required. If staff assistance is required, the President shall be notified.
- (d) Keep the Executive Board informed on all grievance activity.
- (e) Review all grievances being considered for arbitration and recommend to the Executive Board whether each particular case should be arbitrated."

NEGOTIATOR [2 offices open—2-year terms]

Section 12, (e). Duties:

- (a) Research issues and prepare and submit initial bargaining proposals (including proposals on re-openers) for review and approval of members in good standing of the bargaining unit(s) prior to commencement of negotiations, including recommendations relating to salary schedules and fringe benefits.
- (b) Negotiate the contract (including re-openers and modifications) for and on behalf of the Chapter with assistance from CSEA field staff.
- (c) Ensure that all bargained agreements are submitted for ratification of the bargaining unit(s) in accordance with Article XII of this constitution.
- (d) Review all insurance programs, which may be available to the Chapter membership and to acquaint the membership with those programs; and act as an intermediary for any member between administration insurance carriers and other concerned persons or groups for any member so requesting and involving a program of group insurance available to the membership."

All offices have a one-year term, except Negotiator which has a two-year term of office.

"Together We Are Stronger"



Merced College CSEA Chapter 274 Constitution - ARTICLE IV

"Officers & Executive Board/Election Procedures Section 3.

Eligibility to Hold Office: Officers shall be elected from among the Active members in good standing of the Chapter who have maintained such membership continuously for a period of six (6) consecutive calendar months immediately preceding the month in which they are elected.

(a) Nominees for elected office shall be Active members of the Chapter in good standing at the time of nomination and can only accept nomination for one (1) Executive Board office."

"Section 4. Nominating and Election Procedures:

- (a) Nominations to fill the elective offices listed in Section 1 shall be accepted annually.
- (b) Nominations for these offices shall be accepted from the floor at the October and November Chapter meetings.
- (c) If, after nominations are closed at the November Chapter meeting there is only one (1) nomination for an office, the single nominee shall be declared elected to the office, and no balloting or other action shall be required. The Chapter President shall so notify the membership in writing as soon thereafter as possible.
- (d) When there is more than one (1) nominee for an office, a secret ballot election shall be conducted on the day scheduled for the December Chapter meeting.
- (e) It shall require a plurality vote to elect any officer. Write-in votes shall not be accepted. If a tie exists, the election shall be determined by lot (draw) between the tied candidates.

2021 Nominations and Candidate Statements

Below are current officer nominations and candidate statements listed alphabetically. Candidate information has been updated to reflect current incumbents and those who are running opposed.

Chapter President Candidates



Raul Alvarez

- 1. What is your current position, and how long have you been working at Merced College?

 I currently hold the position of Facility Scheduling Tech at Merced College. I am going on my 15th year, all of my years of service have been at the same position.
- 2. Why did you decide to run for this office?

I decided to run for office because, for a while now, I have heard and seen the need for new people to serve on the CSEA Committee. There has been recruitment from CSEA members for some time now. I was nominated by my peers, having support from our colleagues is a good feeling. In a few words, I also believe I can make a positive impact to the Chapter on our campus.

3. What do you hope to accomplish during your time in this office?

This is kind've a loaded question; I do believe others that have served on our CSEA Committee have done a good job. I would like to add to the tradition and contribute positively. CSEA is a large entity and can do many good things here on our campus. Obviously, with COVID, there are certain restriction and limitations but sharing ideas for the future with follow Committee members and our entire CSEA brotherhood is essential.



Isaac Mock, Incumbent

1. What is your current position, and how long have you been working at Merced College?

I am a Maintenance Mechanic and have worked at Merced College since January 2019. I am also the CSEA President for our chapter.

2. Why did you decide to run for this office?

I am happy to put my name in the hat to re-run for the CSEA President position. This year has been far from "normal" and it has been a priority for me to listen to my colleagues and work with the district to increase communication. Based on the feedback I have received, I feel that I am relatable to my colleagues and my positive attitude has helped increase communication between our union and the district.

3. What do you hope to accomplish during your time in this office?

I am eager to continue in this role and to continue making sure our classified employees are seen and heard. Even in the middle of a pandemic, our CSEA executive team has been able to resolve most issues at a low level. I plan to continue to represent you all by communicating with our college president and reporting to the Board of Trustees how dedicated we all are.



Terry Plett

Greeting Chapter 274 Members,

My name is Terry Plett. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself, and ask for your vote in the upcoming CSEA Chapter 274 elections for the Office of President for 2021.

1. What is your current position, and how long have you been working at Merced College?

A little bit about me, I have worked here at Merced College for 9 years now as a Contract Training
Coordinator at the Business Resource Center. I am a Jacketed Job Steward for our Chapter. I have served our employees as Chapter 274 Vice President and in 2019, served as our Chapter President.

2. Why did you decide to run for this office?

I'm running for the office of President this year because I strongly believe our voices need to be heard. We, as Classified Professionals, contribute greatly to student success in so many ways.

3. What do you hope to accomplish during your time in this office?

My commitment, as your President, will be to ensure our best interests are known and build a stronger representation for our work within the District. I'm asking for your vote to continue serving our members.

Thank you for your consideration and remember, We are Union Strong!

Terry Plett

Vice President Candidate



Christine Grimaldi-Clarkson, Unopposed

- 1. What is your current position, and how long have you been working at Merced College? I have been working as a Science Laboratory Technician in the science and social science departments for 17 years.
- 2. Why did you decide to run for this office?

Those of you who know me, know that I care. And as an anthropologist and archaeologist, I have a different perspective of the world than most do. I know that a group of like-minded, determined people can bring about change. We have roughly 300 Classified Professionals at MC who have great strength when they join force.

I have been a member of CSEA since I was hired, and I became more involved in the union in 2007 when I was first elected Vice President. I was President in 2008 when we fought layoffs, Past President in 2009, and have held many offices several times including Chief Union Steward, Chief Negotiator and Vice President.

3. What do you hope to accomplish during your time in this office?

I will work this year to connect with our Site Representatives. Please watch for messages from me regarding Site Representatives in the near future.

Secretary Candidate



Ethan Ravensdale - Unopposed

1. What is your current position, and how long have you been working at Merced College?

I am an Outreach and Inreach Specialist working in the Office of Relations with Schools. I specialize in Career Technical Education (CTE) recruitment (the outreach part) and support our currently enrolled students with any barriers they encounter throughout their program of study (the inreach part). It has been a wild ride at Merced College! I worked as a student in the Bookstore from 2008-2012, joined Admissions & Records in 2012 as a 19-hour employee, then became full-time and stayed until 2017. I briefly left MC, but came back in 2019 and now here I am in ORS!

2. Why did you decide to run for this office?

I'm not sure if I "chose" to run or if the position chose me. J I have been your CSEA Secretary before in 2016 and learned so much while performing in the role. Personally, of all the CSEA positions, the duties of this role suit me well. Professionally, CSEA provides an invaluable service and influence locally and state-wide. It is well-worth the monthly contribution asked of us. Since Janus vs. AFSCME in 2018, it is more important than ever to support our union, the protections and benefits we have gained from being members, and to continue to fight the good fight for worker's rights. Our work has VALUE!

3. What do you hope to accomplish during your time in this office?

My personal goal is to encourage as many of our members as possible to take part in our events and meetings and to speak up so we know what is going on "out there". We all have individual problems, individual ideas, and concerns and I hope to contribute in some way by uniting our many voices in to one strong, loud, and unified voice to further our cause.

Treasurer Candidate

Maria Soto - Incumbent, Unopposed

Chapter Communications Officer (CCO) Candidate



Jeanette Martin - Incumbent, Unopposed

1. What is your current position, and how long have you been working at Merced College? Hello MC family! May name is Jeanette Martin. I am a programmer analyst in Information Technology Services (ITS). I have worked at the college in varying capacities for over 23 years! Phew...that's a long time...and I can tell you time flies.

2. Why did you decide to run for this office?

I decided to run again this year as your CCO in an effort to help bridge the communication gap between the District, our community, and our membership, and to serve as a resource to help answer questions and concerns you have as a member of the Merced College family.

3. What do you hope to accomplish during your time in this office?

My mission is to provide information that connects our members to services and resources that benefit you both professionally and personally. Part of that means learning to strike a balance between work-home-life, and I, like you, find this challenging to do at times. Just know you are not alone and the E-Board is here if you need us. Don't hesitate to reach out!

Negotiators (2 positions open)



Angelica Campos - Incumbent

1. What is your current position, and how long have you been working at Merced College?

I am an Area Administrative Coordinator (formerly Area Secretary) for the Science/Math/Engineering Dept. I've been here at Merced College in this position for 15 years and fortunate enough to actually enjoy my job. I realize not everyone does, but at the very least, I hope that most understand that without our union things could definitely be a lot worse!

2. Why did you decide to run for this office?

As a current outgoing Negotiator, it was hard for me to just walk away when we've already begun negotiating, and I'd feel like I was abandoning the team. Plus I think it helps to have some continuity on the team and I'm now considered the "senior" member lol! Might as well keep it going for another 2 year term!

3. What do you hope to accomplish during your time in this office?

I'd like to keep the same momentum going that we had established with the previous team. I feel like we enacted a lot of good changes for us members as a whole, though I realize it will never be perfect and you can't please every single person. Add on top of that things are always changing so you have to be able to roll with the punches! And actually, I've been a Negotiator for several years now and though it definitely hasn't always been easy, it is generally rewarding. The underlining reason for it all is that I truly do believe in standing up for what is right and not allowing us (classified professionals) to be exploited.



Rachel Gray

1. What is your current position, and how long have you been working at Merced College?

I am an Outreach & In-reach Specialist in the Office of Relations with Schools, primarily working with high school students. I also create content and manage our department's Social Media pages. Merced College has been my place of employment for about a year and a half. Not only has this college community gained a place in

2. Why did you decide to run for this office?

I understand the frustration of feeling that your voice isn't heard, or on the flip side, needing someone to explain something in a different way without being criticized (asking for help can be uncomfortable for some). I want to keep on the path of making our lives as employees better.

3. What do you hope to accomplish during your time in this office?

I hope to create a comfortable environment for employees to bring their suggestions and to keep the momentum established by those who served in this position before.



Chris Minor

- 1. What is your current position, and how long have you been working at Merced College?

 My name is Chris Minor and I am running for one of two Negotiator positions. I am an Instructional Support Technician in the Industrial Technology Department and have been with the College for over 30 years.
- 2. Why did you decide to run for this office?

The reason I decided to run for Negotiator is to be a part of a team that has all CSEA members in mind and like all of us have benefited from their efforts.

3. What do you hope to accomplish during your time in this office?

If elected my mission on the team is to continue the progress our previous negotiators have work so hard on achieving for us and hold on to all the benefits, we appreciate now.



Check out CSEA's latest edition of Focus magazine

It's Scholarship Season! Your Dependents Can Apply Now

Are your children graduating from high school this year and headed off to college next Fall? Are they already attending college? Check out our scholarships available now for your dependents.

CSEA \$1,000 Dependent Scholarships

CSEA offers \$1,000 scholarships to dependents of CSEA members. **Applications must be submitted along with all required documentation by March 1st**. For more information, please visit www.csea.com/education or click here to download the application. Need assistance with completing the application? Download this checklist to stay on track.

Union Plus Scholarships - \$500 to \$4,000

CSEA members and dependents are also eligible to apply for the Union Plus Scholarship with awards ranging from \$500 to \$4,000. Apply online by January 31, 2021 at www.unionplus.org/scholarships.

CSEA Educational Benefits

Are you also going to college or do you have student loan debt? Explore all of our education benefits, including the CSEA Free College Programs at www.csea.com/education.



americanfidelity.com

American Fidelity's Got Your Back

Taking care of people, students, and communities requires a lot of heart. Your selfless giving is a never ending task. As a dedicated classified school employee, we know you put your heart (and back) into every day. So when it comes time for someone to help look after your best interests, know that American Fidelity is by your side.

American Fidelity has been a trusted, approved CSEA benefit provider for over thirty years offering voluntary supplemental insurance products to school employees.

Here to Help

- Answer questions big or small
- Guide you through the benefits claim process
- Provide supplemental benefits for your and your family

Explore the benefits designed for you at www.americanfidelity.com/csea.

For additional questions or assistance, call CSEA Member Benefits at (866) 487-2732.

Shop on Amazon?

Your purchases can help support the CSEA Assistance Fund at no extra cost to you

You now have another way to donate to CSEA members in need. When you shop at Amazon Smile, 0.5% of your purchases go towards the CSEA Assistance Fund. It doesn't add any cost to your purchase, because the money is donated by Amazon.

To designate the CSEA Assistance Fund as your Amazon Smile charity, follow the directions below. After that, be sure to always go to smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com.

That way you will automatically make a donation each time you make a purchase. You can even track how much you have donated towards the Assistance Fund.

Directions:

- 1. Go to https://smile.amazon.com
- 2. Log in if you have an Amazon account or create an account
- 3. If you are a new user, verify your account by checking your email for a One Time Password (OTP). Enter the code and click "Create your Amazon account"
- 4. Search for CSEA Assistance Fund
- 5. Select CSEA Assistance Fund, location San Jose

Enjoy this video of the Humanitarian Committee; First Vice President, Shane Dishman, Second Vice President, Adam Weinberger, Association Secretary, Monica Han and Past President, Allan Clark, as they are getting ready for the holiday season with Amazon Smile.

What is Amazon Smile?

Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. Everything at Amazon Smile is the same as Amazon.com—including the same selection and the same prices. The only difference is you get the added bonus of Amazon donating a portion of your purchase to your charity, the CSEA Assistance Fund.

Purchases made using the Amazon Shopping App or Kindle store applications do not count towards Amazon Smile charities. Be sure to log in to smile.amazon.com using a web browser like Chrome or Safari. Also, subscription purchases do not count in Amazon Smile.

Not an Amazon Shopper? Still want to show your support?

Contribute to the CSEA Assistance Fund today and help members in need of financial relief or assistance in times of crisis. You can donate by clicking here or by calling CSEA Member Benefits at (866-487-2732), option 1.

Join us for a Virtual Holiday Benefit Fair!

You are invited to join us for some holiday cheer with games, prizes and valuable information about CSEA benefits for you and your family hosted by the CSEA Member Benefits Committee. Santa and his elves will be there, we hope you will too! Meet our valuable benefit providers and hear from special guest, CalPERS board member, Rob Feckner.

Monday, December 14 - 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Live Webinar: "Holiday Cheer with CSEA Member Benefits!"

Click <u>here</u> to RSVP. After you RSVP, you will receive an email with all the details about how to join in via Zoom on your smart phone, tablet, or a computer.

Have fun playing games and the chance to win prizes, **including two grand prizes of a TV and an a IPAD**, while you learn about the many benefits available through your membership! Get some great holiday gift ideas too, like the gift of free college for yourself and family members.

- CSEA College Programs Free College for you and your grandchildren
- CalPERS Update from Rob Feckner, CalPERS Board Member
- American Fidelity Supplemental Insurance Benefits
- SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union
- United Insurance Partners Auto & Home Insurance and more
- CSEA no-cost \$5,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment Policy
- Legal Referral & Counseling
- Union Plus Mortgage Program
- Discounts on contactless organic grocery delivery, Harry and David, Teleflora, AT&T, and more!

Spread the Love this Holiday Season - Do you want to spread some holiday cheer to your fellow members? Consider a **year-end tax deductible donation** to the <u>CSEA Assistance Fund</u>. There are many ways to donate, including over the phone or online. Go to <u>www.csea.com/assistance</u> to find out how!

Give the Gift of Free College - Download this card in <u>color</u> or in <u>black and white</u> and print it to mail out or to email it to your grandchildren and other family members to give them the gift of free college!

Introducing Wisely™ Direct by ADP™

New benefit! Wisely™ Direct by ADP™ is a prepaid Mastercard™ branded debit card that offers a number of benefits for members who don't have a bank account and may be paying high fees at check cashing services and for members who want to use it for budgeting or other savings goals. Access and details on how to apply will be available soon.







Introducing a New CSEA Member Benefit: Wisely™ Direct by ADP™

Member Benefits Call Center

If you have questions or need more information, we are here to help!

The Member Service Call Center remains open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The number is (866) 487-2732. Please be patient as we have transitioned to a virtual call center. If you have any issues getting through, please try the number again or email memberbenefits@csea.com and we will get back to you. We can assist you with obtaining your Member ID number, provide you with contact information for your labor relations representative or local chapter leadership, as well as assist you with any member benefits questions.

For additional questions or assistance, email memberbenefits@csea.com or call CSEA Member Benefits at (866) 487-2732

Visit ww.csea.com or Merced College CSEA Chapter 274