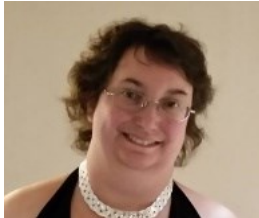


# President's Message



Greetings!

Spring is in the air, and the campus is in full bloom! It's not the only thing—plans for Classified Professional Development Day are also blossoming nicely!

The event will be Thursday, April 20, from 9-4:30 at the BRC. This year's theme is "Sailing into Professional Development". It will feature a keynote speech on EEO and workshops on professional development, health and safety, and technology.

Registration packets will be out soon. Hope to see you there!

On the theme of professional development, Merced College received a Commendation from the ACCJC visiting team for our well-developed professional development opportunities for Classified Professionals as well as faculty. Professional development is something I feel should be a priority, and I am hoping many more opportunities will be available in the future.

In the meantime, enjoy the lovely weather!

President Andrea



## Welcome: New Classified Professionals

March 2017

Michael Camara, Library/Media Tech  
Beverly Quigley, Area Secretary

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### Classified Senate Information

#### **Merced College Classified Senate Officers**

President: Andrea Hall-Cuccia  
Vice President: Gabriela Garcia  
Secretary/Treasurer: Jeanne Bernardi

#### **News Letter:**

Rosa Hernandez  
LaDenta Smith

#### **Web Site:**

Shannon Gragg.

#### **Meetings**

Third Thursday of every month from 2-3 pm in the Administrative Conference Room unless otherwise specified. Video Conferencing for Los Banos available upon request.

**Website:** <https://mc4me.mccd.edu/>

# Professional Development Training Opportunities Right Here at Merced College!

Did you know that Merced College provides professional development training to businesses and organizations in our district? Did you know that many educational institutions, including UC Merced and Stanislaus State University have hired Merced College to provide staff development opportunities for their employees? Did you know that you can participate in these professional development opportunities too? Many Merced College employees are familiar with the Customer Service Academy (CSA). This award winning program has ten different workshops that each earn ½ unit of college credit. Participants can take just one course or take all ten and earn an award certificate. The program is made up of Management courses on topics like Communication, Attitude, Team Building, Time Management, and Conflict Management. The courses are designed to help improve internal customer service so that we can give excellent external customer service. The courses are interactive, relevant, and fun! They are offered on campus, at the downtown Business Resource Center and can be offered for any team or department that is interested!

In addition to the Customer Service Academy, there is a new program called the Emerging Leaders Institute. Similar to the CSA, the Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI) has multiple modules that can be offered as stand-alone workshops or can be taken as a series of workshops that will result in an award certificate. The Emerging Leaders Institute is comprised of eight ½ unit workshops with the common theme of employee engagement woven through all of the courses. The program is for high potential employees and new managers who are ready to focus on core leadership skills and are poised to move up in their organizations. Seasoned managers would benefit from the training as well, as they would refresh themselves with current and proven leadership strategies. The program is extremely relevant and half of the books that go with the courses are on the Wall Street Journal's best-selling business book list.

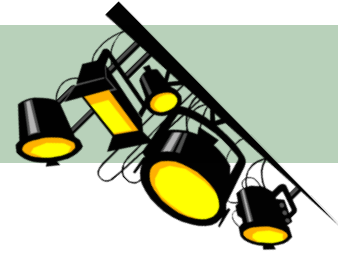
**As an employee at Merced College, you have the opportunity to participate in these training opportunities. For more information, see the links below or call Terry Plett at (209)386-6735 or email him at [terry.plett@mccd.edu](mailto:terry.plett@mccd.edu).**

Customer Service Academy: [http://www.mercedworkplacecenter.org/c\\_customerservice.html](http://www.mercedworkplacecenter.org/c_customerservice.html)

Emerging Leaders Institute: [http://www.mercedworkplacecenter.org/c\\_emergingleadership.html](http://www.mercedworkplacecenter.org/c_emergingleadership.html)



# Employee Spotlight



## **Regina Moua**

Job Title:

**Financial Aid Assistant**

Department:

**Financial Aid Department**

Years with College:

**6 months as classified, 4 months as temporary worker, 6 months as work-study.**

Regina assist students with financial aid inquiries, directing, researching, and referring students to appropriate departments. She analyzes students' FAFSA reports. She hands out appropriate financial aid forms, checks status of financial aid, and takes missing documents from students. Regina also organizes and manages financial aid files, opens and distributes financial aid mails, sends out welcome letters, and assists advisors with files. She supervises and keeps time for work-study students.

Regina enjoys cooking, shopping, and socializing. With my free time she likes to be involved and help the community. She is an alumni of Merced College. She received her associate's degree in criminal justice and anticipates furthering her education. Previously, Regina worked as a legal assistant to Paul C. Lo, who was a former attorney, but now is an honorable judge at Merced Superior Court. Regina is a mother of three to one boy and two girls. She was born in Merced, grew up in Merced, is working in Merced, and now raising her family in Merced.

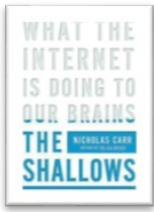
# Campus News

At the March 14 Board of Trustees meeting, the Board unanimously passed a resolution in support of undocumented students.

The resolution states that campus police will not detain, question, or arrest anyone based on suspected or confirmed immigration status except by warrant, subpoena, or court order. Confidential student records also will not be released without a warrant, subpoena, court order, or student permission. The District will not provide data for a registry of individuals based on legally protected characteristics, such as religion, national origin, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

The resolution will be posted on the College website. Currently, it can be found in the agenda for the March 14 board meeting.

# Book Review



## THE SHALLOWS by Nicholas Carr

*Over the past few years I've had an uncomfortable sense that someone, or something, has been tinkering with my brain. . . My mind isn't going—so far as I can tell—but it's changing. Now my concentration often starts to drift after two or three pages.* -Nicholas Carr

First, the standard disclaimer: I was an early adopter of all things computer and internet, and for perhaps a decade, I was just as infatuated as everybody else. But like Carr, I began to realize somewhere around 2007 that I was still buying and collecting books as objects – indeed, I had cartons upon cartons of them in my living area and bedroom – but I was doing very little actual *reading* of them.

In 2008, I had to move. Between working, downsizing, transferring things to storage, and complete exhaustion, there was a week when I had no phone, no TV, no computer, no radio – nothing. During that time, yes, folks, I rediscovered reading. I had two books left in my house. I'm embarrassed to say that neither one was the Bible. They were John Maxwell's THE RHYTHM OF LIFE and Edmund White's THE FAREWELL SYMPHONY. I had read the White book before, but this time, in complete silence and isolation, I began almost to *live* it. What he said! How he said it! The internet didn't have anything comparable.

I found out later that I was not alone. It was inevitable that our cultural love affair with the internet should spawn a backlash, and Carr is certainly not the only author to chime in. But he has condensed the science and given us proof that Google may not be making us stupid *per se*, but it is making us different: less focused and less empathetic.

Carr has done his homework. In the 1950s, scientists started using computerese to talk about human brains—the nervous system as 'circuits,' and humans as 'hardwired' for certain behaviors. Researchers learned enough about the brain to make that comparison, and the metaphor became the message (bless you, McLuhan).

But as better ways to map the brain came along, neuroscientists in the 1970s and 1980s re-evaluated their metaphors. "The genius of our brain's construction is not that it contains a lot of hardwiring, but that it doesn't," says Carr. "Our neurons are always breaking down old connections and forming new ones, and brand-new nerve cells are always being created."

And what these brand-new Google-ized cells want, apparently, is bigger, faster, louder, shinier input. Carr hits it on the head with his conclusion:

*Most of the proprietors of the commercial Internet have a financial stake in collecting the crumbs of data we leave behind as we flit from link to link—the more crumbs, the better. The last thing these companies want is to encourage leisurely reading or slow, concentrated thought. It's in their economic interest to drive us to distraction.*

We should have known! Both hardware and software are made uniquely addictive to get us to buy things! And boy, how do we comply! But that's a topic for another book and another review.