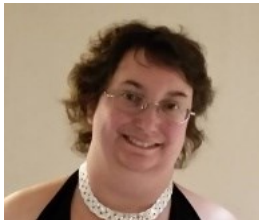




# President's Message

April , 2017  
Volume 1, Issue 8



Professional Development is the theme of the month. Spring Break means Classified Professional Development Day, a day-long opportunity to network and learn about topics related to EEO, professional development, health and safety, and technology. We've been able to expand this event in the past two years and now have a full-day event with multiple workshop sessions, a keynote, lunch, and a raffle.

Planning for next year's event will be underway in the fall. Please consider joining the committee to plan this event!

We're looking forward to expanding professional development even more. The 2017-2018 for Merced College includes approximately \$10,000 for professional development. Classified Professionals are very grateful to the Managers who gave up their cell-phone stipend to provide these funds! It goes to show enough small amounts make a big difference.

We can never have too much money for professional development. Classified Senate has a Foundation Account, separate from the account for Classified Professional Development Day. I encourage all of you to donate just \$5 a month through a payroll deduction. If only 20 people do this, this adds over \$1,000 to our budget!

Here's to more professional development events in our future!

## Welcome: New Classified Professionals

April New hires will be listed in the May's newsletter.

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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:**

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/organizations/class-senate/default.aspx>

# Business Resource Center

In November 2002, voters in the Merced area approved a general bond measure to fund facilities improvements at the District's Merced Campus. The Business Resource Center was one of the projects listed and was built to provide the community with employment training and economic development programs, as well as classrooms, computer laboratories, conference rooms and community meeting spaces for college and business collaboration, and faculty and staff space.

In 2007 the Merced College Business Resource Center opened its doors as a state-of-the-art training and educational facility in the downtown area. The Business Resource Center has become the focal point for business training programs, employees seeking job training opportunities, and workforce development initiatives for the community. The Business Resource Center hosts Community Services, the Career Advancement Academy, the Workplace Learning Resource Center, English as a Second Language, and other business related training programs including the regional Deputy Sector Navigators for Global Trade & Logistics as well as Retail, Hospitality, & Tourism.

Merced College Business Resource Center is a big part of the college's core value of *Partnership*: We actively engage with the community and community partners to respond to cultural, educational, economic, and technological needs.

## Employee Spotlight



### **Jim Anderson**

Job Title:

**Dean of Instruction**

Department:

**Area 3: Agriculture, Industrial Technology and Kinesiology**

Years with College:

**22 years**

Jim manages the instructional disciplines of Agriculture, Industrial Technology, and Kinesiology. Programs include Animal Science, Agriculture Business, Plant/Crop Science, Landscape Horticulture, Mechanized Agriculture, Diesel Equipment Technology, Industrial Electrical, Industrial Maintenance, Commercial and Residential HVAC, Cisco Computer Networking, CAD Drafting, Automotive Technology, Welding Technology, and Kinesiology. He also manages numerous CTE grants with a total budget of over \$4 million dollars annually. Jim manages the 2+2 Articulation program for Merced College and all CTE outreach and articulation train the trainer activities. Jim has a BS and MS from Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo in Agriculture Science. He taught agriculture for 26 years (13 years at Merced High School, and 13 years at Merced College. He is in his 9th year as an Instructional Dean at Merced College. He enjoys spending time with his family. His hobbies include boating, fishing, and motorcycle riding

# Book Review

The Next America by Paul Taylor

Review by Melinda Cornwell



Taylor, executive VP of the Pew Research Center, is spot-on about generational conflict: nobody wins.

Managers are snapping up Generation Y (those born in the 1990s). Being “digital natives” has helped them in jobs featuring social media and state-of-the-art software. Employers promote them because they welcome change, are in good physical health, and are easy to train. The result: by 2026 the main consumers of luxury goods such as couture clothing and designer handbags will be millennials.

Generation X (born in the 1970s and 1980s) is stuck between older workers who refuse to retire and younger ones who seem catered to and coddled. As of 2010, Generation X’s assets were only double their debts, while their grandparents (Silent Generation) had 27 times more assets than liabilities. (These were the folks who lived through the depression, feeling lucky to have lard sandwiches and mashed potato cakes.)

At this writing, there are 76 million baby boomers, versus 80 million millennials.

Boomers claim they worked their way up without perks or trophies. Younger employees hotly dispute this: what about health and retirement benefits, longterm care coverage, catastrophic and maternity leave? Not to mention senior housing, senior travel packages, and the senior discount on practically all goods and services?

Generations differ in their views about government’s obligation to citizens, including retirees. At 23% of the federal budget, Social Security is the largest entitlement program in U.S. history. Our budget is out of balance, claims financial columnist Robert Samuelson. Entitlement systems were based on 20<sup>th</sup> century demographics. In 1935, when the programs started, there were 1500 workers in the labor force for every one who was drawing retirement, and 17 workers paid for one retiree. By 2035, estimates indicate that the ratio will be two to one. At a conservative estimate, the program is expected to run out of funds by 2038.

What will Generations X and Y live on when their working lives end? There are so many variables involved that we can’t be sure. “By their very nature, market investments introduce risk into the equation. There is nothing inherently wrong with risk, of course,” says Ralph Nader. A Roth IRA or 401k may be a good place to start. Current rules allow you to contribute up to \$5500 yearly to a Roth if you are under 50, and \$6500 if you are over 50. The limits for 401ks are higher.

Taylor invites us, as a society, to ask hard questions about our collective financial future, and to demand answers from our leaders. The longer we wait, the tougher the solutions become.

