



A Message From The CSEA Vice President:

Hello All,

Before the end of the semester and all its craziness sets in, I wanted to take a minute to say "Hi" and **thank you** again for all of your assistance.

There are a few things I want to share with you:

1) I don't know if you realize just how critical your role is and how much the union relies on you to share important information. You as a Site Rep are the union's first and most important line of defense! There are certain things that by law we cannot share via email, so we rely upon the Site Reps to get this information out to all of our members. Aside from word of mouth, you should also have a CSEA cork board somewhere in your building (most likely in a staff or break room) where you can post/share CSEA information. If you do not have a cork board for CSEA items, please let me know and the union will get you one.

2) The Classified Senate in conjunction with CSEA recently generated and passed a resolution that Classified employees will from now on be referred to as "Classified Professionals". This has passed the College Council and is expected to be passed by the Board of Trustees in December. Employees may still refer to themselves as "employee" or "staff" if they prefer, but this term change was made to reflect the level of professionalism at the college and to garner more respect for us. Please spread the word that we are now officially "Classified Professionals".

3) As you know, we are ratifying (voting on) a new classified position at the chapter meeting next Wednesday, Nov. 25. If members have any questions, comments, or concerns about this, please have them contact me, one of our Negotiators (Diana Butts, Angelica Collins, Linje Johnson, and Art Hernandez), or Kristi Wolf. **Anyone want to help me proctor and count the votes from 1 - 2 pm – I'll request release time for you?**

4) As you also know, we have elections for new officers coming up. The last chance to make a nomination is at the chapter meeting next Wednesday. So far, we don't have any nominations for VP or Secretary. **Please consider running for office!** Free training is provided by CSEA, and release time is granted to Officers for most union meetings.

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2015



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CSEA Union Benefits

CSEA Member Spot light

We have many of your members working hard to achieve their educational goals. These goals do not come easy when juggling work, school and family. Lets please give some of our members some much needed acknowledged for embarking on a very beneficial endeavor to better their and their family's future.

Arturo Garcia from Financial Aid has begun working on his BA in Sociology with a minor in Psychology at CSU Stanislaus.

Rosa Hernandez of the Transfer Center has started her BA in Psychology and Public Health at UC Merced.

Nichole Martinez from Financial Aid is working on her BA in Psychology and Behavioral Sciences at Sacramento State.

Nora Rocha from Financial Aid has begun working on her BA in Management at Fresno Pacific.

I am sure we all can appreciate hearing positive highlights of various achievements. We should share our personal accomplishments, as well as our students' achievements. We all have a personal story of how we have gone above and beyond to help a student, or we all know a student who we feel should be acknowledged. Sharing these things at the Board of Trustee meetings is a great way to show the Board and those in attendance just how much we help the students and that the students are our focus (not ourselves).

We would like to ask people to share their and/or students' positive accomplishments and stories with us so that we can share them with each other and the Board of Trustees?

Money for School... through your Union!

Member Reimbursement Subsidy - Up to \$250

Subsidy grants up to \$250 are awarded to members who are pursuing an opportunity that connects them to the union, the community, and/or students. Examples of the types of programs considered include attendance at CSEA's Paraeducator Conference, CSEA's Maintenance and Operations Academy, completion of the citizenship process, obtaining a high school diploma or GED, and other college or vocational courses. **Applications available year round.**

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

Because CSEA is affiliated with the AFL-CIO, CSEA members, and their dependents, including spouses, are eligible to apply for Union Plus scholarships. **Go online to apply today at www.unionplus.org/scholarships. Applications due January 31st.**

Education Resources

From test taking strategies to discounts on college counseling, textbooks, Dell computers and more, visit www.unionplus.org/education.

For more details and to download applications, go to www.csea.com or call CSEA Member Benefits at (866) 487-2732 to request an application or brochure.



California School Employees Association



AFL-CIO

Merced College CSEA will hold an election in December for 2016 Executive Board Officers.

ALL positions are open:
so far, the only nominations are
Kristi Wolf for President and Toni McCall for Negotiator.

FINAL Nominations will be accepted from the floor during
the next chapter meeting on November 25th, 12:00 – 1:00 pm
in the Student Union Building, room SU-137.

Please bring the nomination form, with the nominee's signature,
to the next chapter meeting and make a motion to
nominate a member(s) for office(s).

Nominees must sign the attached form for the nomination to be accepted.

A member may nominate him or herself.

The following offices are open for nominations:

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
TREASURER
CHAPTER PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER (CPRO)
CHIEF UNION JOB STEWARD
NEGOTIATORS (2 offices open—2-year terms)

MEMBER BENEFITS

*Save Big this Holiday
Season!*

*Gift Ideas from CSEA for
your Family and Friends
Exclusive Discounts for
CSEA Members*

Sample Discounts

*Discount Movies Passes - AMC -
\$8.25, Regal - \$8.25, Cinemark
- \$8.75*

*Gift Certificates - Honeybaked
Ham - \$34 (\$40 value), See's
Candies - \$13.60 (\$18.50 value)*

*Restaurant Gift Cards -
\$22.50 (\$25 value) -
Applebee's, IHOP, Panera
Bread, Chili's*

*Amusement Park Tickets -
Legoland 2 day Adult - \$71,
Knott's Berry Farm Adult - \$39*

*To make purchases, we make it
easy for you!*

Call Us: (866) 487-2732

Go Online: www.csea.com/store
Visit Us!

*Member Benefit Service Centers:
CSEA Headquarters, 2045 Lundy
Avenue, San Jose, CA 95131*

*Fresno Field Office, 2501 W.
Shaw Avenue, Ste. 107, Fresno,
CA 93711*

*Rancho Cucamonga Field Office,
10211 Trademark St., Ste. A,
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730*

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CPRO

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Chief Negotiator

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Negotiators

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Linje Johnson

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A Message From The CSEA Vice President:

5) We have not yet begun negotiations. Admin has just begun negotiating with the Faculty Association, so it may be awhile until it is our turn. Before we begin negotiations, the Negotiators will send out a survey to ALL classified professionals asking what articles they should open; in other words, they will be asking what in our contract you want changed and why. Please honestly answer this survey and encourage others to do so too - this is how the negotiators know what needs to be changed, and how we as a union get a contract that works for all of us. **We do foresee a battle over, among other things, our health care benefits, pay, and PERS.** This next year may be a tough one for our negotiators. Please make sure you help them by doing your part and communicating between them and your fellow classified professionals. Be ready to stand up for what you deserve and make sure others know they have to be ready too.

a. FYI - Since 2006, Classified Professionals have received a total of 2.25% in raises. According to Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index, during this same amount of time inflation increased 16.8%. The salaries of the Classified Professionals have in fact decreased by roughly 14% since 2006.

6) Upcoming **FREE CSEA Training:**

Union Steward Training Level 1

02/27/2016 - 8:30 am (5 hours)

MCOE, 632 W. 13th St., Merced

A free lunch is usually also provided.

[This is an excellent and empowering training course (and you can take it even if you don't become a Union Steward). I recommend everyone take it.]

7) Can you please tell me in what building your office/work area is located (or will be located if you are moving soon)? There has been/will be some moving around of people and offices and I want to be certain we have Site Reps in all areas.

There are roughly 250 Classified Professional currently employed at Merced College. **Each of us individually make up THE UNION.** If we are divided, we are conquered. Whereas, if we work together, stand together, grow together, we are one powerful force. Let's show everyone just how strong we are!

Hope everyone enjoys their holiday celebrations, has a great end of the year, and an even better 2016!

Christine Grimaldi Clarkson

CSEA Vice President

Chapter 274

Merced College

(209) 384-6019

California School Employees Association



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