



Board of Trustees Report



June 14, 2022

Dr. David M. Johnson, President

I want to begin by expressing my gratitude to our Director of Student Activities and Campus Life Doris Hankins, and the rest of the planning team for all of their work on the Virtual Commencement and Campus Celebration. The in-person graduation event drew several hundred students, friends, and family members to Merritt—a far greater turnout than we had initially anticipated. But in the end, I think the event underscored how eager our students are for connection and the opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments. The graduates were treated to remarks by our ASMC President and PCCD Student Trustee Leesa Hogan, and we were fortunate to have Oakland Councilmember Loren Taylor, Trustee Linda Handy, and Trustee Kevin Jenkins in attendance as well. All things considered, the day could not have been better!



Two weeks ago, several of our Merritt team members had the opportunity to attend the National Conference On Race & Ethnicity (NCORE), which was held in Portland, OR. The conference offered a welcoming and inclusive environment, while emphasizing the importance of educators modeling a learning setting free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. Specifically, our team's objective was to hone in on how Merritt can create and sustain comprehensive institutional approaches to improve racial and ethnic relations on campus. We look forward to doing that work and are committed to availing ourselves of the tools and resources that the team will share and help implement at the college.



As we kick off the Summer 2022 term this week, I want to end with a quick snapshot of our enrollment. As of Friday, June 10th, our summer school Resident FTES stood at 289.28, which is a little more than 82% of our enrollment target. We have kept a number of lower-enrolled sections (over a dozen) as a result of student and/or program need, and have even added sections to meet student demand for classes in certain disciplines. Finally, *EdSource* is running a feature on Merritt College because we are one of the few community colleges in the state to have actually increased our student headcount from the Fall 2020 semester to the Fall 2021 term. Great job!!



Merritt College puts students first. Through our rich educational programs, we foster a culture of equity and inclusion that empowers students to achieve their greatest potential and make meaningful contributions to their respective communities and our global society.