



# Board of Trustees Report



October 25, 2022

Dr. David M. Johnson, President



On Wednesday, October 12, Merritt College held our Transfer Day, and from the feedback received it was an absolute success! We had 113 students attend the event (both virtually and in person), and 40 different colleges represented. I want to thank all of the counselors who helped to make this day so amazing, as well as the instructors who brought their classes to the event. I also want to give a special shout out to Angela Khoo, who is the lead for our Transfer Center. I should add as well that Jim Rawlins, who serves as the Associate Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management at UC San Diego, will be traveling to the Bay Area to meet with our counseling and leadership team on Thursday,

October 27 to discuss expanding transfer opportunities to that institution. Their interest in Merritt is (in part) the result of their recognition that the College has the highest transfer rate of African American and Latinx students in the District.



The Computer Information Systems/Computer Sciences Team sponsored a job fair on Friday, October 14, that brought eleven Bay Area employers (ranging from corporate to government entities) to the Merritt campus to share employment opportunities with our cybersecurity students. Emceed this year by Dr. Nathaniel Jones, the Acting Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration, the *Employer Career Day* event is an annual partnership event between Bay Area companies and Merritt CIS/CS students seeking internships and/or full-time jobs.

The keynote speaker was Mr. William (Bubba) Paris, a three-time super Bowl champion with the San Francisco 49ers. In an outstanding speech, he stressed the importance of students preparing themselves to be able to compete with the best in the cybersecurity field. He closed his remarks with the exhortation, "You are more than ready to face your challenges in life... just do not quit," which is a key concept from his book, *Born for the Moment*. In a related piece of good news, our **Merritt College received \$400,000 to support our Cybersecurity program**. These funds were allocated as part of the Congressional Omnibus Appropriation Bill for Higher Education, and can be used for marketing, technological, and instructional purposes.



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In closing, I want to provide a snapshot of our overall enrollment picture. We are at 80.2% of our Fall 2022 FTES target (with a few late-start sections that have yet to begin). Currently, 7.6% of our sections have an enrollment of 10 or below, and 27.1% of our sections have an enrollment of 20 or below. In short, we have been very liberal in letting sections go forward (for Fall 2022 we did not cancel a single section with an enrollment of 15 or better). For the Spring 2023 semester we have 354 sections slated to run (compared to the 394 sections that we ended the Spring 2022 semester with). We hope to see a jump in FTES by marketing our Spring Is Free campaign in the next few weeks to coincide with the Spring 2023 enrollment period beginning in mid-November. Should we see a significant upswing in enrollment we are committed to running additional sections to accommodate student demand.



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