



# Board of Trustees Report



February 27, 2024

Dr. David M. Johnson, President


**ITS TIME FOR A FRESH START**

**CLEAN UP YOUR RECORD!**

THE STREET SCHOLARS & THE ACCESS PROJECT ARE HOSTING A RECORD EXPUNGEMENT EVENT FOR THOSE WITH CONVICTIONS IN ANY CALIFORNIA COUNTY. GET HELP FILING YOUR PAPERWORK AND FREE FINGERPRINTING (NORMALLY \$60+)

**MONDAY 2/26/24 10AM-12PM @ MERRITT COLLEGE RM PIT2**

**REGISTER LINK: ACCESSPROJECTCA.ORG/RSN**





On Monday, February 26, Merritt College welcomed students to our Love-Moss Center for Re-Entry and Empowerment for the opportunity to receive free post-conviction legal services. Under the auspices of The Access Project (TAP), and the leadership of COSER Department Chair Bianca Parazo, students received assistance with everything from navigating the expungement/dismissal and felony reduction process, to learning how approach the final hearing of their case. The program provides these services for free, and the fees associated with record collection and court filings are covered as well. Needless to say, providing these resources are critical if we are to meet our Mission to Put Students First. Justice-Impacted students have particular needs and challenges, but we are committed to ensuring that we provide them the necessary support to pursue any and every educational avenue that we have at the College.



**Oakland BLACK COLLEGE EXPO**

PRESENTED BY NATIONAL COLLEGE RESOURCE FOUNDATION

WE OFFER:

- MEET WITH OVER 50 COLLEGES
- GET ACCEPTED ON THE SPOT
- SCHOLARSHIPS ON THE SPOT
- APPLICATION FEES WAIVED
- SEMINARS
- SURPRISE CELEBRITY GUESTS
- WIN CASH & PRIZES
- WIN A SCHOLARSHIP TO ALABAMA A&M
- REGISTER TODAY AT: NCFFOUNDATION.ORG/EVENTS
- Register your group

FEBRUARY 17, 2024  
at OAKLAND MARRIOTT CITY CENTER  
10AM - 5PM

University of La Verne | hp | cad | active | us bank | navy | TOYOTA | CHECKPOINT | EDU | WELLS FARGO

As Black History Month comes to a close, I am pleased to share two items of note. Merritt College represented well at the 2024 Black College Expo held at the Oakland Convention Center on February 17. Given the critical role that we want to play in student transfer to four-year institutions, we felt that it was important to let attendees know that we can provide a road map to the HBCU of their choice (saving them and their families thousands of dollars along the way). I should also share that we are working on establishing a formal agreement with Alabama A&M University, an

HBCU located in Huntsville (more on that soon). In an effort to reach students who have already applied to Merritt College but did not enroll, as well as those who were once enrolled but “stopped out,” Merritt faculty, staff, and administrators are coming together to initiate a phone outreach campaign. With a call sheet of more than 350 students, our goals are to get them registered for Summer/Fall courses, assist them with any issues pertaining to Financial Aid, A&R, Counseling, etc., make them aware of the resources available to them through college in general and our Sankofa Program in particular, and establish an ongoing connection that will support their retention.



*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.*



In closing, we are pleased to announce that on May 3, 2024, Merritt College will host the inaugural Peralta Community College District Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Graduation! You may recall that last year Laney and BCC collaborated to put on a joint celebration in recognition of their status as AANAPISI (Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution) Grantees. Merritt College is proud to join our sister colleges in attaining this status (the most recent data show that our percentage for this student demographic is approaching 18%--to be eligible

for AANAPISI status, an institution's student enrollment must be at least 10%), and this event will both underscore and inspire our collective commitment to support this student population. The event will be held in the Newton-Seale Room from 5pm to 7pm, and we are expecting at least 200 attendees. We look forward to celebrating with you!

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