



2016-2018 Officers

Mark Blethen
President

Kurt Meyer
President-Elect

Claire Cesareo
Past President

Lewis Long
Chief Negotiator

Parisa Soltani
Secretary

Frank Gonzalez
Treasurer

Blake Stephens
Membership Chair

Beth Clary
Part-Time Faculty Chair

Grievance Chairs

June McLaughlin
*Irvine Valley College
Grievance Chair*

Margot Lovett
*Saddleback College
Grievance Chair*

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SOC CCD



South Orange County Community College District Faculty Association

Volume VIII, Issue May 2017

2017 Fall CCA Conference

When: October 13-15, 2017

Where: Northern California

Hotel: Marriott, San Jose

The Fall Conference is always held in early October and highlights membership accomplishments and various aspects of keeping our members engaged in the union.

Representative Council Meeting Dates

Academic Year 2017-2018

Fall 2017

Monday, September 11th - IVC

Monday, October 2nd - SC

Monday, November 6th - IVC

Monday, December 4th - SC

Spring 2018

Monday, February 5th - IVC

Monday, March 5th - SC

Monday, April 2nd - IVC

Monday, May 7th - SC

**exact locations will be posted on the FA website when confirmed*

President's Message



With Spring 2017 winding down, we are coming to the end of our first year serving as your Association's executive committee. I am truly grateful for the hard work and dedication of the Association's officers: Kurt Meyer, Claire Cesareo, Parisa Soltani, Frank Gonzalez, Beth Clary, and Blake Stephens. Together with our grievance chairs, Margot Lovett & June McLaughlin, and our Chief Negotiator, Lewis Long, they have gotten me to the midpoint of my term as your president.

This past year began with a focus on November's board elections. Through the efforts of many faculty members, we were able to mount a successful phone banking and direct texting campaign that resulted in the election/reelection of a faculty centered board. We looked forward to the opportunity of working with them to make SOCCCD a better place to work and learn.

In part due to his organizing efforts during these elections, our Vice President, Kurt Meyer, was recognized this year by the CCA with a W.H.O. Award. In addition to his election work, Kurt has worked to provide our part time faculty with several very effective hiring workshops. Congratulations to Kurt for this wonderful honor.

The CCA also recognized SOCCCD Faculty Association for membership recruitment during the 2016-2017 academic year. Thank you to Blake Stephens, our Membership Chair, for implementing a membership recruitment plan that earned us this award.

As we move forward into the fall semester, our association will begin again the process of negotiating a new collective bargaining agreement. Like always, we anticipate a difficult process. However, with your help and support, our negotiating team will be able to secure another strong contract. But they can't do it alone. A united faculty is crucial to a successful negotiation.

In closing, perhaps our proudest accomplishment this year, has been the successful effort to persuade the District to offer a Supplemental Retirement Plan to our senior faculty. The results are bittersweet, as we will be saying farewell to 30 colleagues at both Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College when they are elevated to Emeritus status at their respective commencement ceremonies. I want to wish each of them all the best in their retirements and thank them for their service to our students and our district. They will be missed.

Thanks you all for your support and encouragement this last year. Have a great summer and we will see you in August.

Mark Blethen, SOCCDFA President

CTA ACCESS TO SAVINGS

You can save over \$1,000 annually!

The CTA Access to Savings program is an exclusive Member Benefit that offers savings to help offset and even cover the entire cost of your annual dues.

Savings as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Visit: CTAMemberBenefits.org/Access
2. Log in with your username and password
3. Search for deals near you and follow redemption instructions.

On-the-Go Savings!

1. Search for the "My Deals" mobile app
2. Enter your email address and CTA ACCESS to Savings password
3. If prompted to register, use **200449-Your CTA Member ID**; OR you may be asked to use **200449** as your program ID



Other Member Benefits:

- Insurance (Auto, Life, Disability, Home, Long-Term Care and more)
- Financial Services (Retirement Savings, Investment Education, Credit Union, Credit Cards, Identity Theft)
- Discounts on Travel and Hotel Services, Rental Cars, Theme Parks and Movies



President-Elect Kurt Meyer Building Strong Locals Academy Graduate!

During the Winter CCA Conference in Los Angeles, our President-Elect, English Professor Kurt Meyer, finished the 2017 Building Strong Locals Academy (BSLA) program. The BSLA helps train faculty interested in leadership and advocacy positions. Congratulations Kurt!

In addition, Kurt was asked to read a song he wrote in support of part-time faculty. You can read his contribution below.

Kurt is pictured (center) with CCA Board Member Phyllis Hall (left) and CCA President, Nynette Nyaggah (right).

On the Twelfth day of Christmas, our extraordinarily talented and dedicated Part-Time Faculty did for their students, this district, and thee...

TWELVE papers- a-grading;

ELEVEN late-night emails an-answering;

TEN students-a-conferencing (in the quad because the one part-time office isn't sufficient space for hundreds of part-time instructors);

NINE bucks-of -gas-a-pumping (so we can drive to school and teach in a district in which we cannot afford to live, and hopefully make it home this time);

EIGHT different-classes-a-teaching (in three different college districts, so we can make rent);

SEVEN hours prepping,

SIX SLO's-assessing;

F-I-V-E hours of sleep...;

FOUR hours pay for each class we teach per week;

THREE times as many hours invested in each class we teach per week;

TWO aspirins and a phone call in the morning;

And a hope for a fair contract! (And a full-time job!)



***Kathy Schmeidler will be Irvine Valley College's
2017-2018 Grievance Chair***

Supporting Students Impacted by Proposed Immigration Policy Changes

The following was extracted from an article by Susan Bibler Coutin, with Anita Casavantes Bradford and Laura E. Enriquez, published the American Anthropological Association blog. All are professors at UC Irvine and serve on the UC Irvine Committee for Equity and Inclusion of Undocumented Students. They drafted these recommendations for faculty so that they may assist undocumented students on their campuses.

1. Be aware of who may be affected. [U]ndocumented students have various racial/ethnic backgrounds. Nationally, 23 percent of the undocumented student population is *not* of Latina/o origin, with 16.6 million individuals living in mixed-status families – that is, families in which individuals have different immigration statuses. Therefore, not only undocumented students, but also those who are citizens and lawful permanent residents may be deeply concerned about relatives, friends, community members, and coworkers.

2. Communicate to students that you are aware of the issues. Let students know that you care about them, that you are aware of what they may be going through, and that you are committed to their success. While making this clear, it is important to maintain students' confidentiality and privacy.

3. Consider the following issues in your classrooms: Use appropriate terminology if discussing immigration issues (the terms "illegal immigration" and "illegal immigrant" are hurtful to many; alternative terms include "undocumented," "unauthorized," "Dreamer," or simply "student.") Advise students before initiating classroom discussion of immigration issues, especially if that is not on the agenda from the syllabus; remind students that you will be discussing a topic that personally impacts many U.S. residents, and ask them to frame their participation in a way that is respectful of different experiences and opinions. In such discussions, avoid spotlighting individual students (e.g., "Kim, as an immigrant, can you share how you feel about Trump's proposal to deport three million immigrants with criminal convictions?")

4. Foster the educational success of impacted students. Refer students to appropriate resources and information. For example, UC Irvine has a staff member dedicated to providing services and programming for undocumented students and has access to the UC Undocumented Legal Services Center, which provides free immigration legal services to undocumented students and their immediate family members. (If your campus does not have such services, you might advocate for creating them.) Encourage students to seek out mental health services, a resource where there is high need but little use. Explain your policies for late work and extensions and indicate that students who are experiencing immigration-related personal or family emergencies should contact you as soon as possible to make any necessary alternative arrangements for completing coursework. Work directly with any student who confides about their personal or familial immigration crisis to find ways to support them in successfully completing required coursework. When appropriate, offer an incomplete grade. Offer snacks, such as granola bars, during meetings with students, as food insecurity is likely to increase with the financial hardship created by losing work eligibility.

5. Help create career and graduate preparation opportunities. Offer independent study courses, advise senior theses, sponsor research opportunities, create unpaid internships, or when possible provide stipends for internships and research experiences.

6. Support student initiatives such as fundraisers and events. Student organizations are likely to develop their own activities around these issues, and would benefit from the support of faculty. Also if/when students come to talk to you, ask them how you can support them.

7. Educate yourself. Participate in ally trainings, if offered on your campus, and review the recommendations provided by national organizations such as [United We Dream](#) and the [National Immigration Law Center](#). Learn the details of your own immigrant-related state laws. For example, in California, AB-540 legislation allows certain undocumented students to pay in-state tuition at public universities, and the California Dream Act makes state financial aid available to these students. Lastly, recognize your limitations. It is better to say, "I don't know," than to give out misinformation.

Susan Bibler Coutin, Anita Casavantes Bradford and Laura E. Enriquez are professors at the University of California, Irvine. Susan Coutin is also a member of the AAA Committee on Public Policy.

**Faculty Association of California Community
Colleges Education Institute**

July 30 – August 4th
Las Casa de Maria, Santa Barbara

The California Great Teachers Seminar is a profoundly simple and powerful experience for learning and growth in the art of teaching. **David Gottshall**, founder of the National Great Teachers Seminar will lead the seminar.

Who should attend:

All full and part-time faculty, counselors, and librarians.

**Only seminar participants may stay at La Casa de Maria*

\$1,150 FACCC member - per participant, based on double occupancy

\$1,350 non-member - per participant, based on double occupancy

A limited number of single rooms are available for an additional fee of \$330

REGISTRATION CLOSES JUNE 30th

Seminar Fee Includes:

Five nights' accommodations
14 meals (*except Wednesday night dinner*)

For an additional \$130, participants can enroll to receive two units of post baccalaureate level credit from Sacramento State College of Continuing Education. Payment for the course will be collected at the seminar.

Course Title: Teaching Strategies for Higher Education Faculty Course Hours: 33 hours/2 units

<http://www.faccc.org/event/2017-california-great-teachers-seminar/>



2017 W.H.O. Awards

Our local Faculty Association nominated our President-Elect Kurt Meyer for the 2017 CCA Chapter W.H.O. (We Honor Ours) Award at the Spring CCA Conference in Manhattan Beach.

Individuals who have made considerable contributions to their local Association may be nominated.

How Will You Spend Your Future?

Are you a new faculty member? Part-time? Full-time? No matter where you are in your career, you should be investing something into your retirement.

When was the last time you checked your annual progress reports from the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS)? Take a few minutes to check the CalSTRS website:

<http://www.calstrs.com/>

Your Faculty Association wants to remind you that YOU are in control of your retirement. More than half of Americans are not well prepared for retirement. Consider investing in an additional retirement program, such as a 403B or Roth IRA. The District provides a list of approved vendors, or you can inquire at Schools First Federal Credit Union for additional retirement options.

Be thankful for
your life, spend
time in nature,
breathe deeply,
let go of your
worries, forgive
yourself and
others, and build
your life around
what you love.

CalSTRS Retirees Notice of CalSTRS Retirement earnings limitations

The 2016-2017 retirement earnings limitation is \$41,732.00. All earnings paid from July 31, 2016 through July 10, 2017 count towards the retirement earnings limitation. This means the first payment of summer is reported towards the 2016-2017 retirement earnings limitation.

The 2017-2018 retirement earnings limitation will increase to \$43,755.00. This is an increase of \$2,023.00. The first payment beginning with July 31, 2017 through July 10, 2018 will be counted towards the new limitation for 2017-2018 fiscal year retirement reporting.



Have a restful summer!