

10/16/23 Counseling Meeting

Counseling Updates:

- Mid Flex Day is Wednesday October 18- counseling office will be closed so counselors can attend- a sign was posted on the door last week
- Associate Vice Chancellor of Educational Services:
 - She is aware of AB928- Recently met with Colleges VPIs and VPSs to discuss
 - Has CIPD as a workgroup for the curriculum piece
 - Will provide a PowerPoint and will most likely join our District Wide Counselor meeting in Spring - stated she will send a PowerPoint soon
 - Will launch an AB928 SS Task Force- will follow up
 - In beginning of the semester, District Chairs were invited to meet to discuss rechanging forms for Dismissal, Probation, and Reinstatement from Dismissal- we asked as district co chairs to follow up with our counseling team for clarification before making firm changes since the meeting was brief- waiting to hear back
- CVC-OEI- we go live as a teaching college starting November 16- Lesley and Sara have been in trainings and will clear prereqs for students applying to classes at Merritt College- <https://cvc.edu/>
- Most class caps are at 40 for Spring- Merritt was the only college that did not do this and resulted in many closed classes being reached at with full capacity on the waitlist - VPI fixed the issue for Spring and class caps are now increased to 40
- Degree and certificate petitions final deadline for Fall is this Friday October 20- as of now, no extended deadline. Please work with students the best you can if they come on drop-in to help them with their petition. If you have any concerns, please email Sara and Lesley.

Guest Speaker: Susana Abdurahman

- Susana- Basic Needs Coordinator, presented slide deck for Basic Needs - Resource Hub for Students
- Free breakfast Monday-Thursday (need to take 1 Merritt class)
- Assistance with CalFresh and supporting individuals with online application process
- Housing resources- share info on emergency loans, affordable housing, connect students to legal aid and resources
- Monday and Tuesday walk in hours 12:30-3:30
- Can always walk a student over to Susana in emergency situations

- Merritt SOUL Pantry
 - 2nd and 4th Thursday 12-2
- Basic Needs Emergency Grant 101
 - What can the grant cover?
 - Intended for short term emergency relief
 - Emergency grants average \$1000- student eligible once a semester. This can be for:
 - Rent or past due rent
 - Security deposit
 - Emergency hotel- no hotel partnership and no local area requirements
 - Past due utilities
 - Food
 - Childcare
 - Car Repair
 - Textbooks
 - Students who are eligible - students facing extreme hardship that impact their ability to meet their basic needs- housing, food, finances
 - Must be enrolled in at least 1 class at Merritt
 - No GPA requirement
- Application process- can be found online - basic needs coordinator will schedule a 20-30 minute meeting - grant funds are disbursed via Financial Aid - through Bank Mobile Card
- Students should do an application with financial aid, but can support if students send a bill- aid is disbursed every Thursday if done by Financial Aid
- Prioritize undocumented students and account barriers with aid- so please send students if they are not financial aid eligible to Susana
- Turnaround time is estimated to be 7 business days- as of now, have a high number of requests
- Move in costs can be up to a \$2,000 grant
- Rental and housing costs up to \$1,000 grant
- A question was asked if basic needs can cover UC/CSU application costs- Susana stated it would not, but if students say they had to pay all the application costs and could not cover their utility bill, a bill can be presented for emergency funding
- Coming Soon hopefully by Spring 2024: Center located in R28
 - Stocked dry goods pantry
 - Hygiene kits
 - Free clothing closet
 - Weekly dedicated drop in hours for CalFresh application support

- Nutrition workshops
- Holistic care trainings
- Community partner workshops
- Readily available basic needs resource packets
- Doris is overseeing budget for Learning Community Groups (FYE, Puente, and Sankofa) Classes are still with Dean Foster - General Counseling budget for now is with Dean Thornton and Jamila

Program & Committee Updates:

- Articulation: Steve's updates:
 - No updates
- Career: Sara's updates:
 - Please continue to encourage your students to use the SuperStrong Career Assessment- can put more fliers in your mailbox
- Centro Latino:
 - Centro Latino have ABCD classes- no assessment for Centro Latino - currently use Alameda and Laney for ESOL assessment
 - District Wide Task Force in the works - Brenda and Edwin are part of the group to have central assessment district wide
 - AB is first half of classes- for Centro Latino
 - CD is the second half of classes - for Centro Latino
 - Students can complete ESL self-guided assessment at COA or Laney:
 - <https://alameda.edu/students/esol-onboarding/esol-courses/>
 - <https://alameda.edu/students/esol-onboarding/esol-self-placement/>
 - <https://laney.edu/esl/gsp/>
 - Can refer any ESOL students to Edwin for support
- EOPS:
 - N/A
- FYE: Rosa's Updates:
 - Went to UCB on Saturday for outreach- had a full room with parents and students- about 1500 students that registered - provided students with Swag- students came from all over.
 - Taking students to SFSU on October 26- with FYE - FYE instructors will be coming

- Puente: Jose's Updates:
 - Puente- will be going to UCD this Saturday (all day event) transfer motivational conference - puente first semester students attending
- Matriculation: Lesley's Updates:
 - N/A
- SAS: France's and Veronica's updates:
 - Thursday October 19 12:30-3 in Huey Newton Lounge - SAS will have a movie event Crip Camp- disability awareness presentation, lunch will be served for students - extra credit assignment will be sent out later
- Transfer:
 - Transfer Day went well with over 30+ Reps attending
- Umoja/Sankofa:
 - N/A
- Veterans:
 - N/A

SuperStrong Career Assessment:

- Sara went over the SuperStrong career assessment and counselors completed it during the session
- SuperStrong career assessment is located on the career center website and is a free resource for students to use- takes less than 10 minutes to complete
- The assessment is available in Spanish and English
- <https://vitanavis.com/Merritt>- Password is Merritt-Explore. High school students without an ID is Merritt-HS

Next Week's Speaker:

Nghiem Thai - Library and CE Programs