



April 29, 2016

This week as our students engaged in finals activities, the campuses have been busy with completion ceremonies, student recognition events, the BIG 8 Conference Track and Field Championships, and the California Automotive Teachers Conference. These events require incredible planning and preparation which was made even more challenging by the road project underway on West Campus. Certainly not to be forgotten, tonight we gather for our annual commencement ceremony. My sincerest appreciation to the YCCD employees that make it all possible! In particular, thank you to our grounds, maintenance, and custodial crews, to our facilities and events schedulers, to our graphic design, marketing, and print technicians, to our IT and media technical staff, to our evaluators, and to the administrative staff that bring it all together. You make MJC shine!

**Stanislaus Poem** – Professor of English, Sam Pierstorff, was commissioned to write a poem about Stanislaus County. He worked with a young CSU Stanislaus graduate to film footage and create this video poem. The poem premiered yesterday at the "Connecting for Good" event hosted by the Stanislaus Community Foundation and you can experience it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=9igJ0i4jYc&app=desktop>

**Throwdown!** - Congratulations to YFA President and Professor of Communication, Dr. Jim Sahlman, MJC Academic Senate President and Professor of History, Curtis Martin who raised more than \$500 for MJC Foundation student scholarships through their innovative food fight! This was a serious competition that required middle of the night preparations including hand crafted bread, homemade apple sauce, and mouthwatering aromas. Curtis took the gold trophy, courtesy of the MJC Ag department, but I believe Jim will throwdown another challenge in the near future.

**Western States Champ** - Dr. Al Alt, vice president of college and administrative services and cowboy, cinched the title "Western States Champ" at the regional finals last weekend in Reno. Al competes in ranch sorting sponsored by the Ranch Sorting National Championships association. The world finals are just 49 days away... Congratulations Al!

As we officially head into summer, I want to thank you for a great year of service to students. May tonight's celebration be a poignant reminder of the importance of your work and may the summer fill you with joy and inspiration!

*Teamwork is an objective  
that the powers that be got right!*  
Andrew Skokan, ADN Student Representative

and pinning ceremony speaker

***Jill Stearns, Ph.D.***

*President*



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