



# HISPANIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE

[www.mjc.edu/hec](http://www.mjc.edu/hec)

## 959 GUESTS ATTEND 36TH HEC CONFERENCE



### MJC Hispanic Education Conference

The purpose of the Hispanic Education Conference (HEC) is to enrich and empower current and future Modesto Junior College students to be successful in pursuing higher education.

The conference includes awards, keynote speakers, over 30 workshops on the topics of education, careers, and leadership, and lunch.

The conference is a free event open to anyone.

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- Jorge Perez Earns Legacy Award
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- Students enjoy HEC



## Modesto High Back 2 Back Champions

The Champion Award is awarded to the high school that has the most attendees at the conference. The once big cat fight between the Paterson Tigers and the Modesto Panthers for attendance supremacy is now one sided. After the Panthers (120 attendees) fell to the Tigers (207 attendees) three years ago, they have since come back with a roar. Last year Modesto High took home the gold with 330 attendees. This year they shattered the record with 615 Panthers in attendance. Modesto High was in the house and in fact they now own the house.



## Modesto High's Jorge Perez earns Legacy Award

A community is only as strong as those who serve in it. Modesto is strong because of Mr. Jorge Perez. For the better part of two decades Jorge Perez has served underrepresented youth in two different roles for Modesto City Schools. Formerly, he served as the Director for Student, Parent & Community Support Services. In 2016, Jorge became a counselor at Modesto High School. During his entire time of service he has impacted thousands of lives. He previously served on the HEC committee and has helped bus many students to the conference.

### 2019 Top 5 High School Attendance

1. *Modesto High-615*
2. *Johansen High-56*
3. *Hughson High-48*
4. *Enochs High-28*
5. *Davis High-23*

### 2018 (October) Top 5 High School Attendance

1. *Modesto High-330*
2. *Patterson High-125*
3. *Hughson High-43*
4. *Johansen High-39*
5. *Gustine High-27*

### 2018 (March) Top 5 High School Attendance

1. *Patterson High-207*
2. *Modesto High-120*
3. *Hughson High-48*
4. *Johansen High-47*
5. *Davis High-43*



## Melanie Berru

MJC Professor of Sociology

Melanie Berru is a proud Chicana born and raised in the Central Valley. She is a mother, daughter, sister, tia, companion, friend, mentor, mujer, and first generation college graduate.

Ms. Berru hold a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Sociology with a concentration in human services from CSU Stanislaus and a Master's of Arts degree in Sociology with in emphasis in teaching in higher education from Humboldt State University.

She is a teacher and a student at heart. She fell in love with Sociology at the age of nineteen. Ms. Berru realized there is no better way to live than to join a passion and purpose into one's life career.



## Professor Berru Inspires HEC Crowd

MJC Professor of Sociology Melanie Berru captivated a crowd of 959 people at the 36th Annual Hispanic Education Conference. Ms. Berru spoke in depth about the "shoulders we rise on" referencing the many people that help guide, inspire, and mentor her. She spoke to her passion and love of Sociology and the places that love has taken her. Ms. Berru ended her keynote address by reminding students and guest that they are good enough and to be themselves.



## Congressman Josh Harder Recognizes Hispanic Education Conference

Congressman Josh Harder attended the HEC. He presented to the college a congressional recognition for Modesto Junior College for 36 years of hosting the Hispanic Education Conference.

Pictured Left: Students from ASMJC along with Vice President of Student Services Florida Arias and Vice President of Instruction Dr. Jennifer Zellet pose with the congressman.







## HEC ATTENDANCE

2019-959 Students

2018-(October) 720 Students

2018-(March) 578 Students

2017-535 Students

In 2018, the MJC HEC committee decided to move the HEC conference to the 2nd Saturday in October. This move allowed the conference to take place during Hispanic Heritage Month as well as avoid issues with weather and spring breaks.

## 2020 HEC ATTENDANCE

**October 10, 2020**  
**SAVE THE DATE!**



**SOMOS LOS  
PIRATAS DE MJC**



*"You are the only ones  
that can make today a  
day to remember.  
Challenge yourself "*

- Mikayla Ramirez-  
ASMJC President



*"This is the community's  
college, this is your  
home, we welcome you"*

- Flerida Arias  
Vice President of  
Student Services