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It has been an exciting first semester as Academic Senate president at MJC. It's heartwarming to see, first hand, the level of faculty commitment to teaching, learning, community service and scholarship. As just one example of faculty dedication this semester, tomorrow evening the [Fall 2019 Faculty Workshop Series](#) comes to a conclusion. This semester over 75 faculty, students, classified professionals and college and community leaders have gathered for four workshops dedicated to the exploration and expansion of active learning models at MJC. The series began with an exploration of student demographics, to better understand who we serve, and the formation of personal credos or beliefs about education. Many faculty professed a commitment to experiential learning, project and discussion-based learning and invention education as we read Tony Wagner's book Creating Innovators and scholarship on best practices from *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Workshop participants then practiced the art of guiding inquiry in the classroom by crafting interpretive questions and discussing several primary readings. The second session also included reading Tara Westover's autobiography, Educated: A Memoir to explore the importance of one's own experiences in the life long quest for knowledge and wisdom. The third workshop explored the importance of active empathy in the classroom as we welcomed Lori Wong, a Stanford University trained teacher from their Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education. Overall, the workshop series has helped to foster a peer-to-peer community of practice at the college dedicated to active forms of learning.

This workshop series experience, together with a recently completed, college-wide survey on professional development needs ([Summary Professional Development Survey](#)) points to demand for more peer-to-peer mentorship opportunities at MJC. This wave of interest will be followed up next semester with the creation of guiding principles and a sustainable structure for the [Institute for Applied Creativity and Community Transformation](#)--which will help host professional development opportunities at the college for faculty, staff--as well as the concretization of partnerships with MIT and other community colleges interested in invention education projects.

The Academic Senate has also passed two additional resolutions this semester. [Resolution F 19 C](#) , *Additional Student Data Metrics for Program Review*, seeks to use additional qualitative and quantitative data metrics in Program Review and [Resolution F 19 D](#), *Recognition for Student Certificate Achievement*, encourages the college to recognize the efforts of all students who have completed a certificate of at least 12 units at the college in hopes of encouraging student persistence.

Next semester is a full plate as the Academic Senate at MJC takes up Pathways curricular maps and the implementation of the Pathways initiative; leads a Calendar Taskforce to explore course and calendar compression issues; and works on a Credit for Prior Learning policy to award students, especially Veterans, with college credit for the many applicable skills and training received during military service. In the spring semester we are also working with the Dean of Student Services and Project Rebound to offer pilot courses in March, May and June to incarcerated students in conjunction with the Stanislaus County Office of Education, the county probation system and the sheriff's office.

Finally, perhaps the biggest joy of the semester has been getting to know board members, the chancellor, college presidents and their leadership teams, and associated students' leaders. These encounters have left me with a profound feeling that we all are dedicated to offering transformative educational experiences and serving our communities in any way possible. It is a privilege to work in such an institution and I thank each of you for your kindness and collegial friendship.

In closing, the Academic Senate wishes each of you a happy holiday season, may 2020 bring much happiness and contentment. The teacher in me leaves with this thought, I do hope everyone has some time over the winter break to leisure read. As Virginia Woolf states in her short essay "The Love of Reading," it is reading that makes all the difference in our lives. In fact, she writes: "When the day of judgement comes therefore and all secrets are laid bare, we shall not be surprised to learn that the reason why we have grown from apes to men, and left our caves and dropped our bows and arrows and sat around the fire and talked and given to the poor and helped the sick—the reason why we have made shelter and society out of the wastes of the desert and the tangle of the jungle is simply this—we have loved reading." Thanks again for a great semester and happy reading to you all.

## Handout

- [Resolution F 19 C](#) Additional Student Data Metrics for Program Review  
Proposed by Senators Theresa Stovall and Austin Adams and  
[Resolution F 19 D](#) Recognition for Student Certificate Achievement  
Proposed by Senators Tristin Hassell and Layla Spain
- [Summary Professional Development Survey](#)
- [Fall 2019 Faculty Workshop Series](#)