



97TH COMMENCEMENT BREAKS RECORD

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719 STUDENTS WALK THE STAGE, MOST EVER!



MJC 97TH Commencement Ceremony

On Friday, May 3, 2019, MJC hosted its 97th graduating ceremony. In front of a record crowd of more than 8,000 guests, 719 graduates crossed the stage in celebration of their academic achievements.

The event was the first for commencement for MJC President, Dr. James Houpis, and it was the last for outgoing Vice President, Dr. Albert Alt. Dr. Alt was recognized at the ceremony.

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President Houpis Recognizes Veterans, First Gen, Faculty, & Staff as he addresses graduates

MJC President, Dr. James Houpis, took the stage for his first commencement and was quick to acknowledge the accomplishments of others. President Houpis asked all the veterans and first generation students graduating to stand and be recognized. He highlighted their journey to the stage, a path not traveled by everyone. President Houpis did not stop there, and asked all MJC faculty members to stand and be recognized as well. He thanked them for sharing their passion and talents with students in pursuit of their goals. Lastly, President Houpis finished his acknowledgements by recognizing the hard work of the YCCD Facilities and Campus Safety teams.



Over 100 Staff & Students Bring Graduation to Life

When graduate, guests, and staff show up for graduation, they witness a flawless transformation of the MJC Stadium that appears to be effortless, but it is not. It takes over 100 people three days to create an atmosphere that is special for students and staff. Those efforts begin with the commencement committee's work throughout the year to plan each detail to perfection. In the days leading up to graduation, the YCCD Facilities team answers the call, putting in massive hours to transform the stadium. On the day of graduation, YCCD security and over 50 student volunteers round out the efforts that lead to an amazing experience for students, staff, and guests.

“This is amazing! My parents and family will be able to read the program, what a special gift. This makes graduation even more special.”

Guadalupe Villanueva
Class of 2019

“Tonight marks the first time in the history of our college that we can present to you a bilingual program in both English and Spanish.

MJC is a proud Hispanic Serving Institution and tonight we all celebrate that..”

Dr. James Houpis
MJC President

“WOW! This is really cool, really special.”

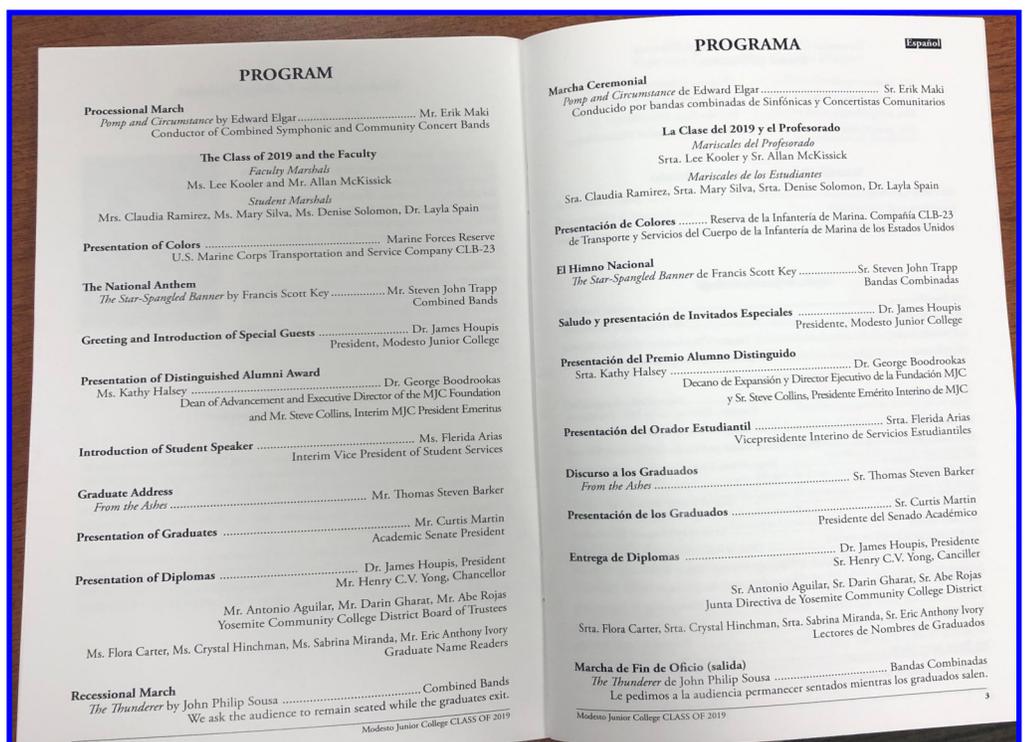
Cristian Alvarado
Class of 2019



MJC Make History With 1st Bilingual Program

In the late 1990's, many wondered if Modesto Junior College could sustain the numbers that qualified the institution as Hispanic serving. That is no longer a concern as 52% of the students who attend MJC are Hispanic. As a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), MJC strives to create ways that our students feel connected to the school.

Throughout this past year, MJC has taken a deliberate approach to serving our HSI students. Those steps have included ensuring bilingual services are available on campus. Anything from changing phone and website information to both English and Spanish, creating bilingual marketing, and offering bilingual student and parent workshops. For this year's graduation, MJC did what has never been done before. The entire program for the college's 97th Commencement was published in both English and Spanish. This is the first time in MJC's history that this has happened. While it can't be officially confirmed, MJC is the first or one of the first community colleges in the state to take such action. Additionally, for the first time ever, a Mariachi performance opened the event.





SAVE THE DATE

**MJC 98th
Commencement
Ceremony
May 1, 2020**

MJC Graduation by the numbers

Participants

2018-2019	719
2017-2018	601
2016-2017	526
2015-2016	575
2014-2015	427
2013-2014	345

Stadium Attendance

2018-2019	8,754
2017-2018	6,882
2016-2017	4,559
2015-2016	4,355

Faculty Participation

2018-2019	100
2017-2018	118
2016-2017	100
2015-2016	125

100 MJC Faculty Attend Commencement

One of the joys for any student attending their graduation is to connect with that instructor who was a major influence. At this year's graduation, 100 of MJC's faculty were in attendance to cheer on students as they entered the stadium, walked the stage, and then joined them for hugs and pictures at the reception in the Student Center..



**SOMOS LOS
PIRATAS DE MJC**

